the knockout makers™
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2
kyoko hashimoto

the knockout makers

VOL. 2

By Kyoko Hashimoto

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THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS
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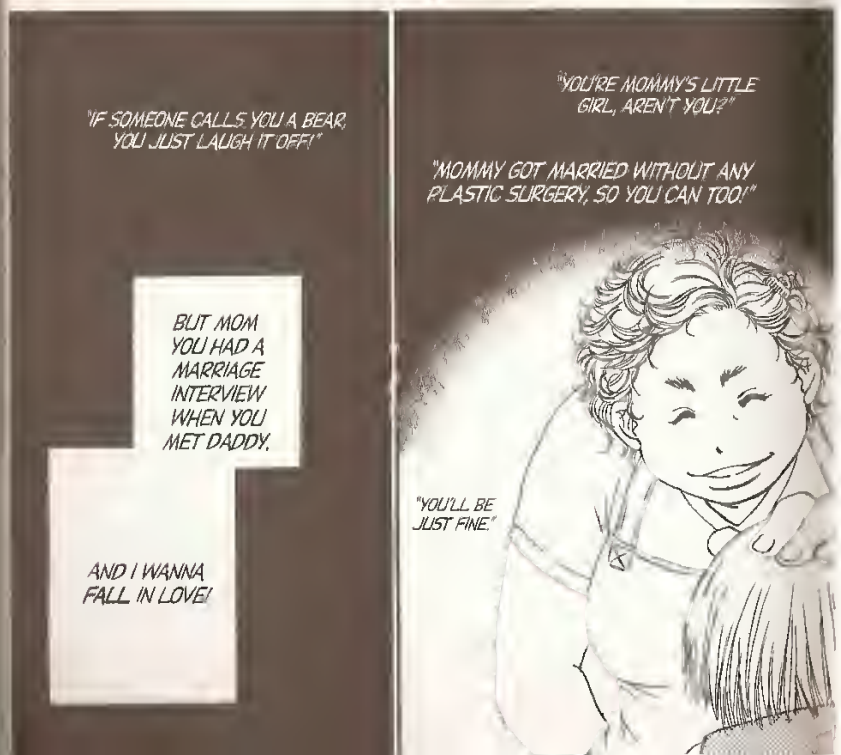
"MOMMY, AM I A BEAR?"
"DO I NEED PLASTIC SURGERY?"
"OH, SILLY GIRL."
"HIROSHI-KUN SAID THAT I'M A BEAR."
"SO I CAN'T WEAR RIBBONS."
"...AND I NEED SURGERY TO TURN HUMAN AND GET MARRIED."
Waaah!
Waaah!
Waaah!


"IF SOMEONE CALLS YOU A BEAR, YOU JUST LAUGH IT OFF!"
BUT MOM YOU HAD A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW WHEN YOU MET DADDY.
AND I WANNA FALL IN LOVE!
"YOU'RE MOMMY'S LITTLE GIRL, AREN'T YOU?"
"MOMMY GOT MARRIED WITHOUT ANY PLASTIC SURGERY, SO YOU CAN TOO!"
"YOU'LL BE JUST FINE."

Toshihiro Sakuma
Makeup

Ryouhei Matsuda
Basics

Nobuo Shirakawa
Hair

What's The Knockout Makers

◆The Knockout Makers (or K.O.M.) are allies of girls who desire beauty above all. Their store opens for 10 minutes only in the middle of the night, and only the lucky ones have their true beauty revealed by these expert beauticians!

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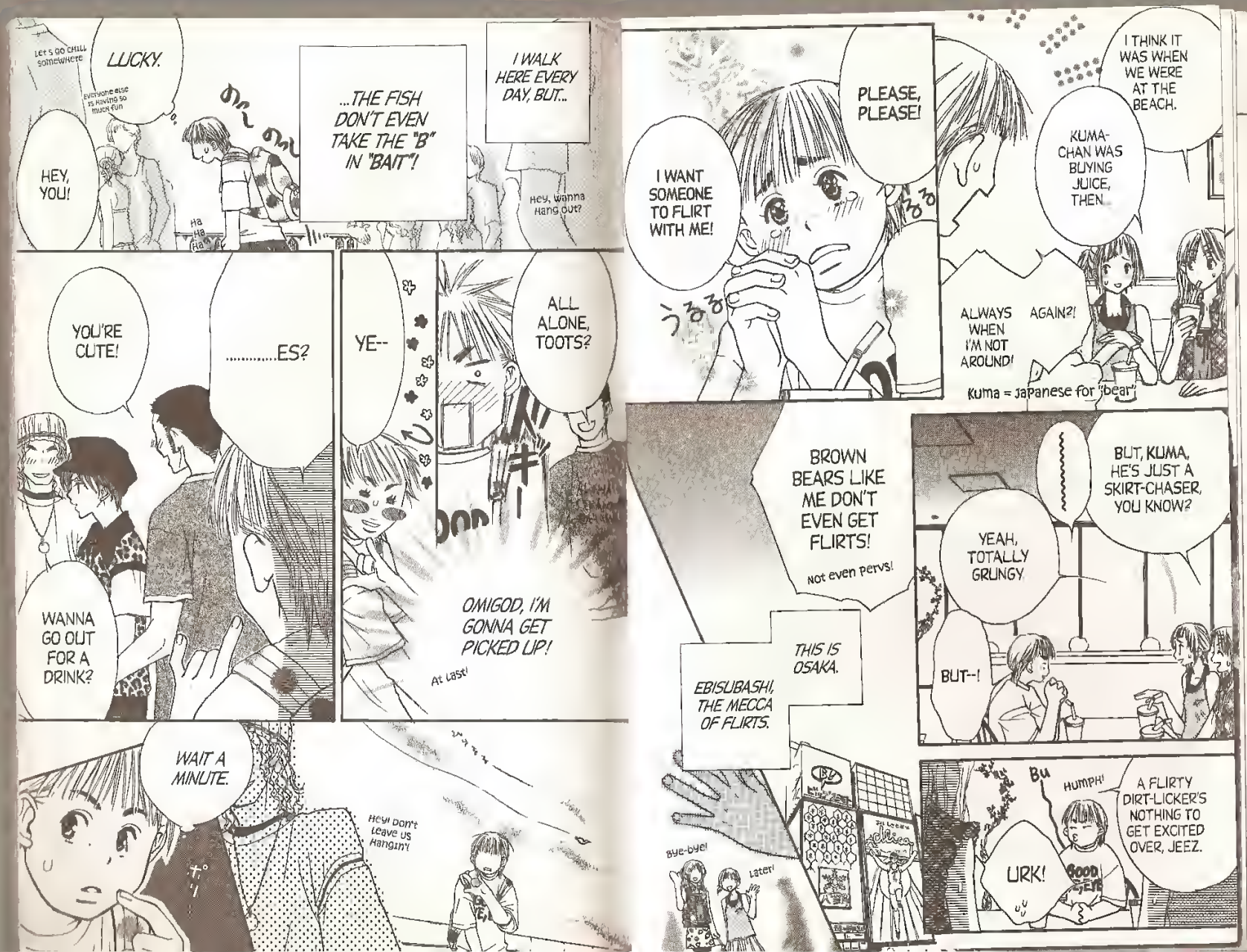
BUT, JUST LOOKING AT ME...
I'M NATSUMI HANAKUMA (AGE 17). I LIKE CUTE, PRETTY THINGS.
...YOU'D SAY THAT...
LIKE PINK ROSES AND SLENDER RIBBONS.
NO WAY! WHEN?! WHERE?!
Me.
...THEY DON'T SUIT ME AT ALL.
"WHERE"?
THE FLIRT GAVE YOU HIS E-MAIL ADDY?!

Change of Wardrobe (1)

TOSHIHIRO X RYOUHEI'S OUTFIT

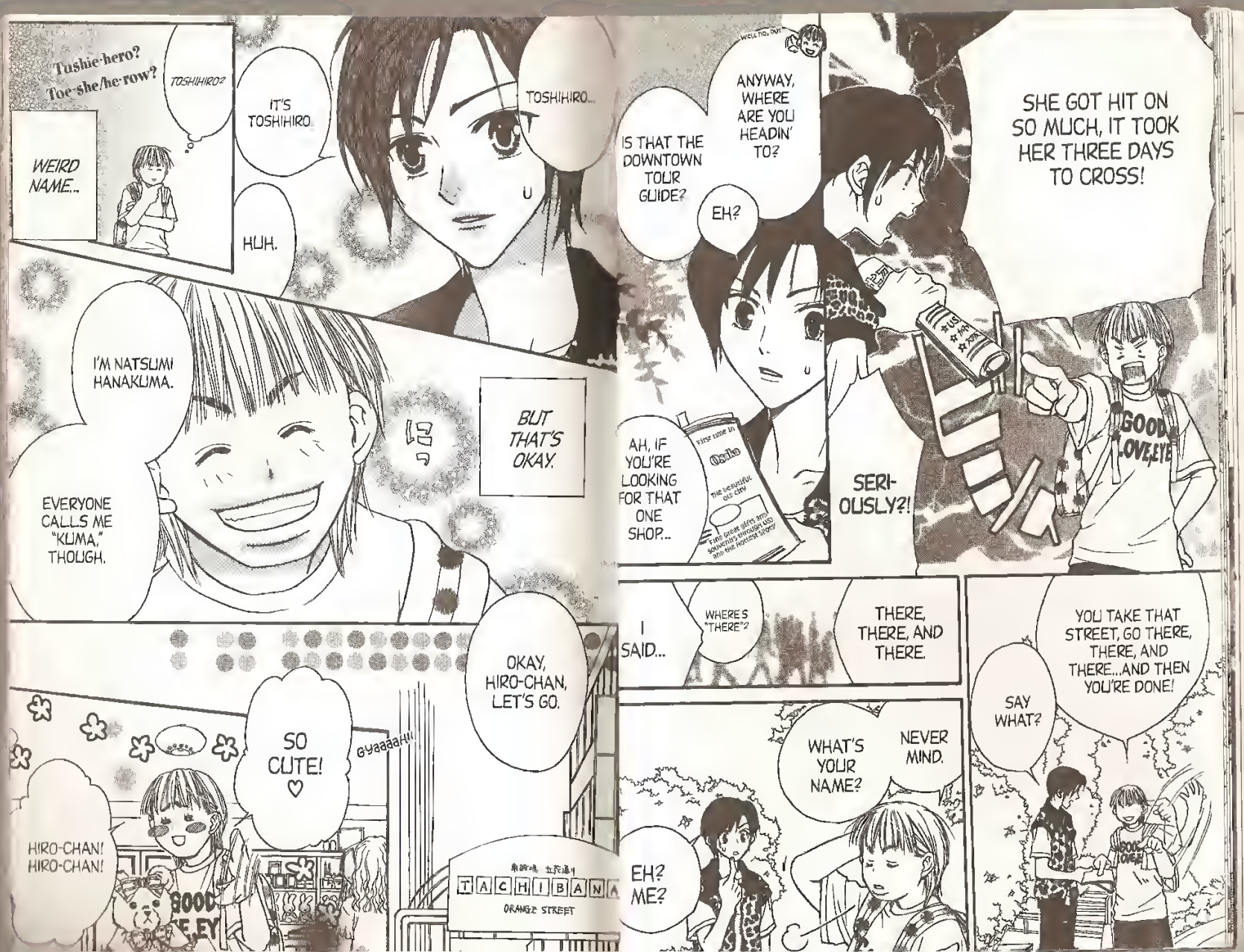
The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 6


Let's go CHILL somewhere
LUCKY.
Everyone else is having so much fun
HEY, YOU!
Ha Ha Ha
...THE FISH DON'T EVEN TAKE THE "B" IN "BAIT"!
I WALK HERE EVERY DAY, BUT...
Hey, wanna hang out?
YOU'RE CUTE!
.....ES?
WANNA GO OUT FOR A DRINK?
YE--
ALL ALONE, TOOTS?
OMIGOD, I'M GONNA GET PICKED UP!
At last!
WAIT A MINUTE.
Hey! Don't leave us hangin'!
PLEASE, PLEASE!
I WANT SOMEONE TO FLIRT WITH ME!
I THINK IT WAS WHEN WE WERE AT THE BEACH.
KUMA-CHAN WAS BUYING JUICE, THEN...
ALWAYS WHEN I'M NOT AROUND!
AGAIN?!
Kuma = Japanese for "bear"
BROWN BEARS LIKE ME DON'T EVEN GET FLIRTS!
Not even pervs!
BUT, KUMA, HE'S JUST A SKIRT-CHASER, YOU KNOW?
YEAH, TOTALLY GRUNGY
BUT--!
THIS IS OSAKA.
EBISUBASHI, THE MECCA OF FLIRTS.
Bye-bye!
Later!
Bu
HUMPH!
A FLIRTY DIRT-LICKER'S NOTHING TO GET EXCITED OVER, JEEZ.
URK!

-LITTLE ...
OOOOKAY?
SOMEONE CALL THE COPS!
Gasp!
IT'S A ONE-SIDED FIGHT!!
UH, violence is...
MAYBE NOT SO WEAK.
HEY, IT'S A FIGHT!
SERIOUSLY..
SOOOO CUUUUTE! ♡
LIKES PRETTY GIRLS TOO
BUT...
I've got things to do.
WHOA.
WOW, WHAT A CUTIE!
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE IT.
MAN, THESE FLIRTS ARE PUSHY!
Please!
C'mon!
C'mon!
Yeah!
Hey!
Hey!
SHE'S BAD AT TURNDOWNS
NO CHOICE.
DON'T PUSH AROUND WEAK--
HEY, YOU GUYS!
GOOD LOVE, EYES
GIRLS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER.

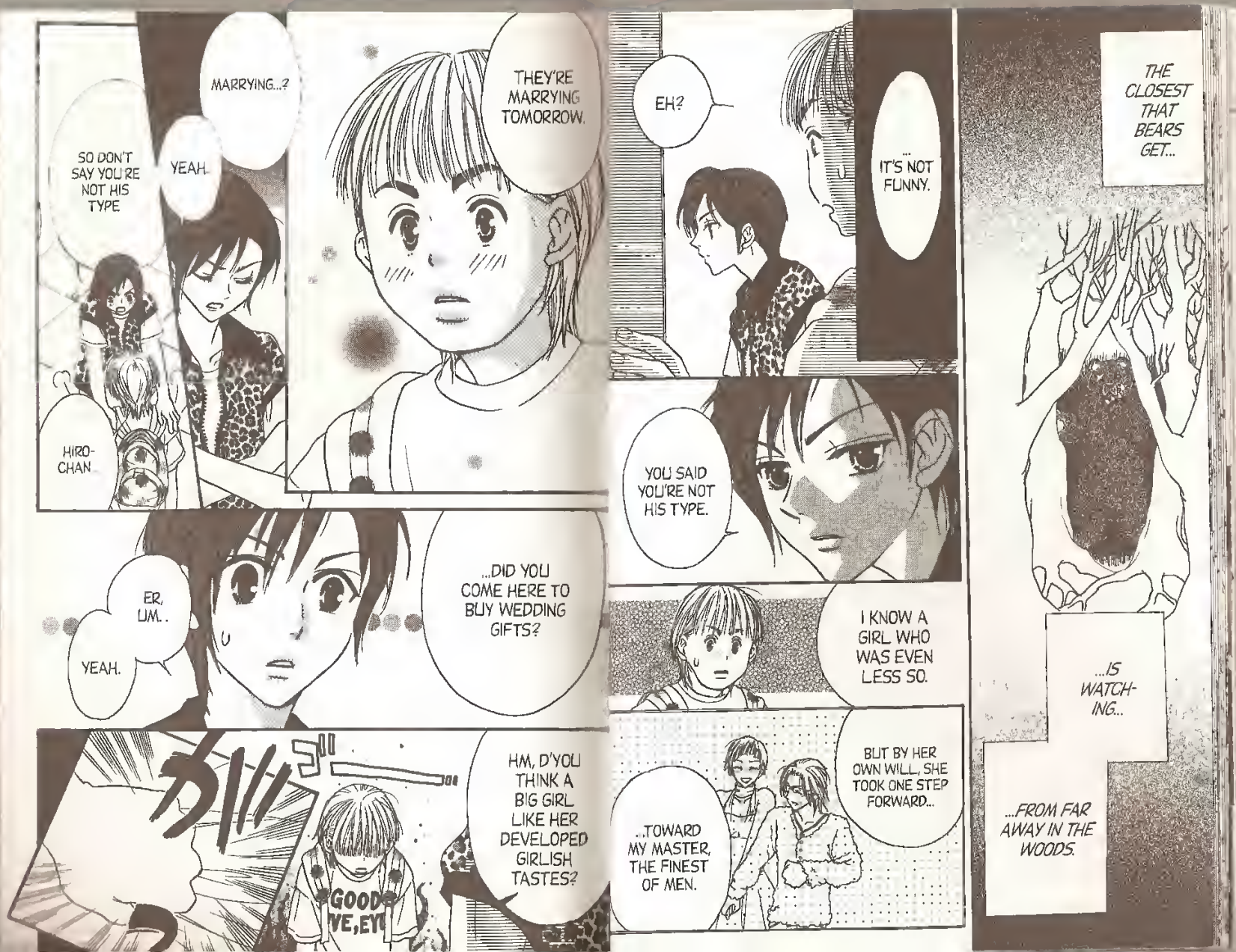
NOW HOLD ON.
HOLD IT, HOLD IT, HOLD IT!
THOSE FLIRTS WERE GRABBING MY ASS--
VIOLENCE IS WRONG!
NOT RIGHT AT ALL!
メラ
ESPECIALLY WITH SUCH A CUTE FACE!!
HUH?!
I DON'T GET YOU.
LADIES DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE "ASS"!!
THAT'S EBISUBASHI, "FLIRT BRIDGE"--MECCA OF FLIRTS.
ONCE A GIRL...
...AS PRETTY AS YOU STOOD THERE.
THIS WAY!
EH?
EXCUSE ME, BUT--
HEY!
OKAY!
THEY'RE ESCAPING!
And fast!
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH.
HEY!
WHERE... ARE...
pant!
...WE?
pant!
IT'S NOT RIGHT!

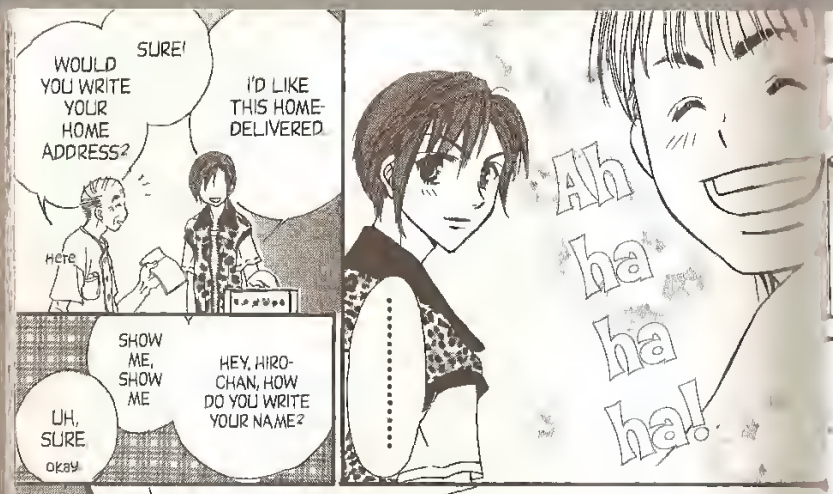

Tushie-hero? Toe-she/he-row?
TOSHIHIRO?
WEIRD NAME...
IT'S TOSHIHIRO.
HUH.
TOSHIHIRO...
I'M NATSUMI HANAKUMA.
EVERYONE CALLS ME "KUMA," THOUGH.
BUT THAT'S OKAY.
OKAY, HIRO-CHAN, LET'S GO.
SO CUTE! ♡
GYAAAAH!!
HIRO-CHAN! HIRO-CHAN!
TACHIBANA
ORANGE STREET
ANYWAY, WHERE ARE YOU HEADIN' TO?
EH?
IS THAT THE DOWNTOWN TOUR GUIDE?
AH, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT ONE SHOP...
SHE GOT HIT ON SO MUCH, IT TOOK HER THREE DAYS TO CROSS!
SERI-OUSLY?!
I SAID...
WHERE'S "THERE"?
THERE, THERE, AND THERE.
YOU TAKE THAT STREET, GO THERE, THERE, AND THERE...AND THEN YOU'RE DONE!
SAY WHAT?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NEVER MIND.
EH? ME?

SO...
...WHY DON'T YOU BUY IT?
SINCE YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH.
I love teddy bears!
I. DON'T.
NO WAY!
BUT YOU LIKED IT SO MUCH!
THAT WAS YOU!
IT'S STILL NICE, THOUGH..
ME? NO WAY, DOESN'T FIT ME AT ALL!
OW!
AH HA HA HA!
Pfft!
UHHH...
IT LOOKS PERFECT!
EEEEEE!
HOW 'BOUT THIS NEXT?!
HERE, HOLD THIS ...
EH?
...NEED TO GET SOME AIR
I...
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME AROUND HERE BUT, UM..
SURE!
Thanks.
JUST TO BE CLEAR--
SOME PEOPLE LIKE GIRLY STUFF, THOUGH
Here
THAT WAS SO GIRLY, IT MADE MY HEAD HURT...
Sigh...

...THEY AVOID LOOKING AT ME.
THE BOYS HIT ON YOU AS MUCH AS...
I NOTICE EVEN IF THEY DON'T SAY IT.
LIKE I'M...
...YOUR "GUARD BEAR" INSTEAD OF "GUARD DOG."
GaH Ha Ha Ha!
YEAH...
IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.
Ha...
YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH!
I'M ALL RIGHT.
IT'S OKAY!
HIRO-CHAN!
APOLO-GIZE TO HER!
HEY.
OH, Taka-chan. Keep your eyes on me!
NOW IF IT'D BEEN THE CUTE GIRL BESIDE HER...
OH, my!
BEAR GIRL, BEAR GIRL!
BEARS SHOULDN'T BE SCURRYING AROUND.
SOME FAT GIRL BUMPED INTO ME.
WHAT'S UP?
S-SORRY!
HEY, WATCH IT!
YOU OKAY?
Just fine!

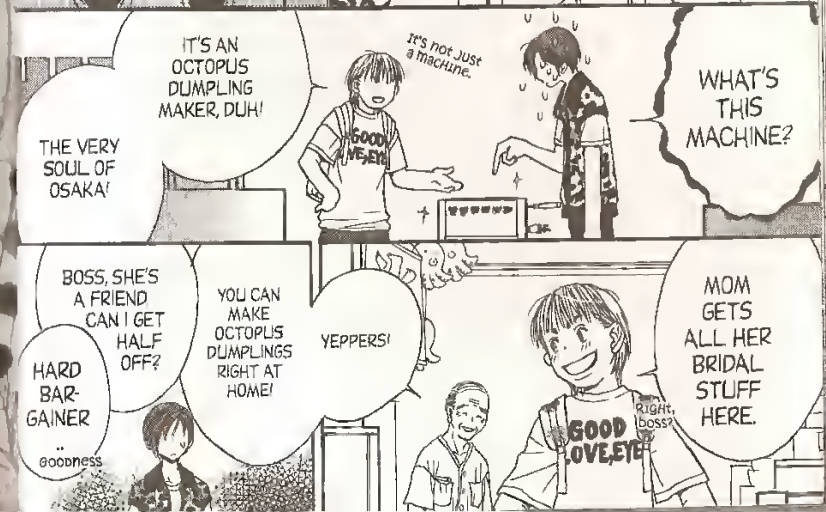
purple hills into the distance
YOU'D BE A BETTER PRINCESS TO HIS PRINCE.
MORE ROMANTIC THAN HOKKAIDO'S PURPLE FIELDS.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'?!
I CAN'T DO THAT!
wow, I don't even know what this is
IF IT WERE ME..
...IT'D BE A PRINCE IN A BEAR ZOO, EVEN IN HOKKAIDO.
YEAH.
PRINCES RIDING WHITE HORSES...
AFTER ALL, NOBODY'S EVER FLIRTED WITH ME ON FLIRT BRIDGE.
Not even once!
I'M SO NOT HIS TYPE, IT'S FUNNY.
..DON'T GO STROLLING WITH BEARS.
I DON'T SEE... HUH?
and Hide
SHH!
BE QUIET!
WHAT'S WRONG?
MIBU-KUN'S THE NUMBER ONE GUY AT PREP SCHOOL!
HE'S SO COOL!!
HUH.
IF YOU'RE CLASSMATES, TALK TO HIM.
GEH!
SO...
...WHY ARE WE HIDING?


THEY'RE MARRYING TOMORROW.
MARRYING...?
YEAH.
SO DON'T SAY YOU'RE NOT HIS TYPE
HIRO-CHAN
...DID YOU COME HERE TO BUY WEDDING GIFTS?
ER, UM..
YEAH.
HM, D'YOU THINK A BIG GIRL LIKE HER DEVELOPED GIRLISH TASTES?
EH?
... IT'S NOT FUNNY.
YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT HIS TYPE.
I KNOW A GIRL WHO WAS EVEN LESS SO.
BUT BY HER OWN WILL, SHE TOOK ONE STEP FORWARD...
...TOWARD MY MASTER, THE FINEST OF MEN.
THE CLOSEST THAT BEARS GET...
...IS WATCH-ING...
...FROM FAR AWAY IN THE WOODS.


SURE!
WOULD YOU WRITE YOUR HOME ADDRESS?
I'D LIKE THIS HOME-DELIVERED.
Here
Ah ha ha ha!
.....
UH, SURE
okay
SHOW ME, SHOW ME
HEY, HIRO-CHAN, HOW DO YOU WRITE YOUR NAME?

Delivery 04 (M)
TOKYO
Name
TOSHIHIRO SAKUMA
TOSHI-HIRO...
Lesser
...SAKU...
...MA?
ALREADY DONE?
I'll send it now.
OMI-GOD!
AH, THANKS.

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN OSAKA..
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO BEFORE!
FOR NEWLYWED NECESSITIES!
GOOD LOVE,EYE
DOGUYASUJI


IT'S AN OCTOPUS DUMPLING MAKER, DUH!
THE VERY SOUL OF OSAKA!
It's not just a machine.
WHAT'S THIS MACHINE?
BOSS, SHE'S A FRIEND CAN I GET HALF OFF?
HARD BAR-GAINER
..Goodness
YOU CAN MAKE OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS RIGHT AT HOME!
YEPPERS!
MOM GETS ALL HER BRIDAL STUFF HERE.
Right, boss?
GOOD LOVE,EYE

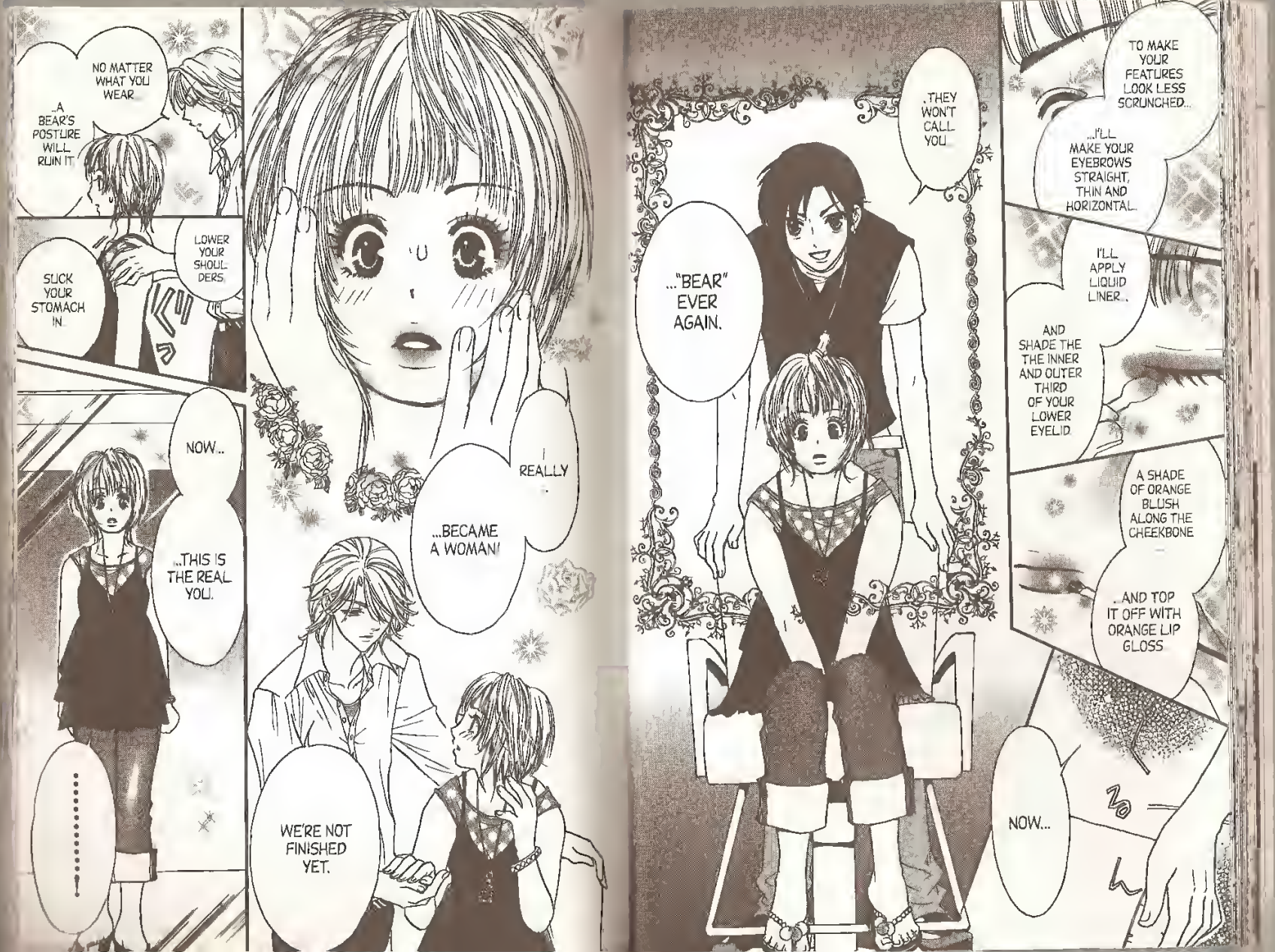
...WHAT'S WITH THE 10-FOOT-POLE TREATMENT?!
BUT...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE...
AS PRETTY AS YOU, HIRO-CHAN, COULD BE A GUY
HEH HEH HEH.
GOOD GOD, EH?
I MEAN, GOOD GOD!
I COULD NEVER LOOK LIKE THAT!
SO LIKE--
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
YOU'RE A GUY?!
You're kidding me!
YOU'RE BUYING THOSE CHOPSTICKS
UH...
YOU DECIDED I HAD TO BE A GIRL
EVEN SO...
BUT...
...YOU COULD SAY MY FACE LOOKS GIRLY.
OF COURSE...

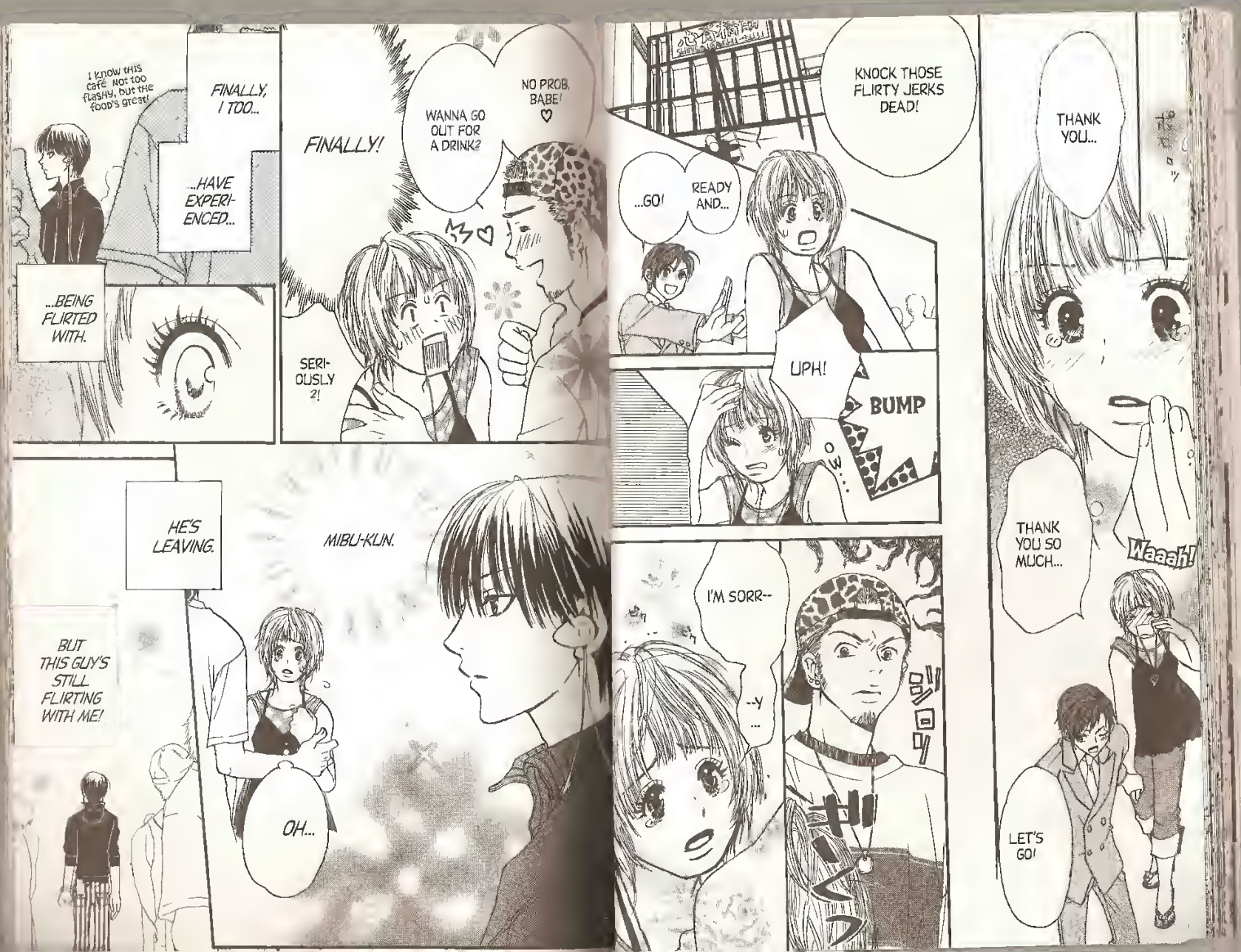
GUESS SO
BUT...
...I HAVE TO LAUGH IT OFF
YOU'RE SO PRETTY, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IT, YOU BIG DUMMY!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
Gawd!
GOOD OVE, EYE
YOU DON'T GET IT!
SIMPLY SATISFIED TO GO HIDE IN THE WOODS...
.....
...LIKE A BIG BROWN BEAR?
YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
UH..
WHOA BOY! You scared me!
YOU'LL NEVER LOOK GOOD?
SO YOU JUST.. ...LAUGH IT OFF?
SO WHAT?
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN FLIRTED WITH?

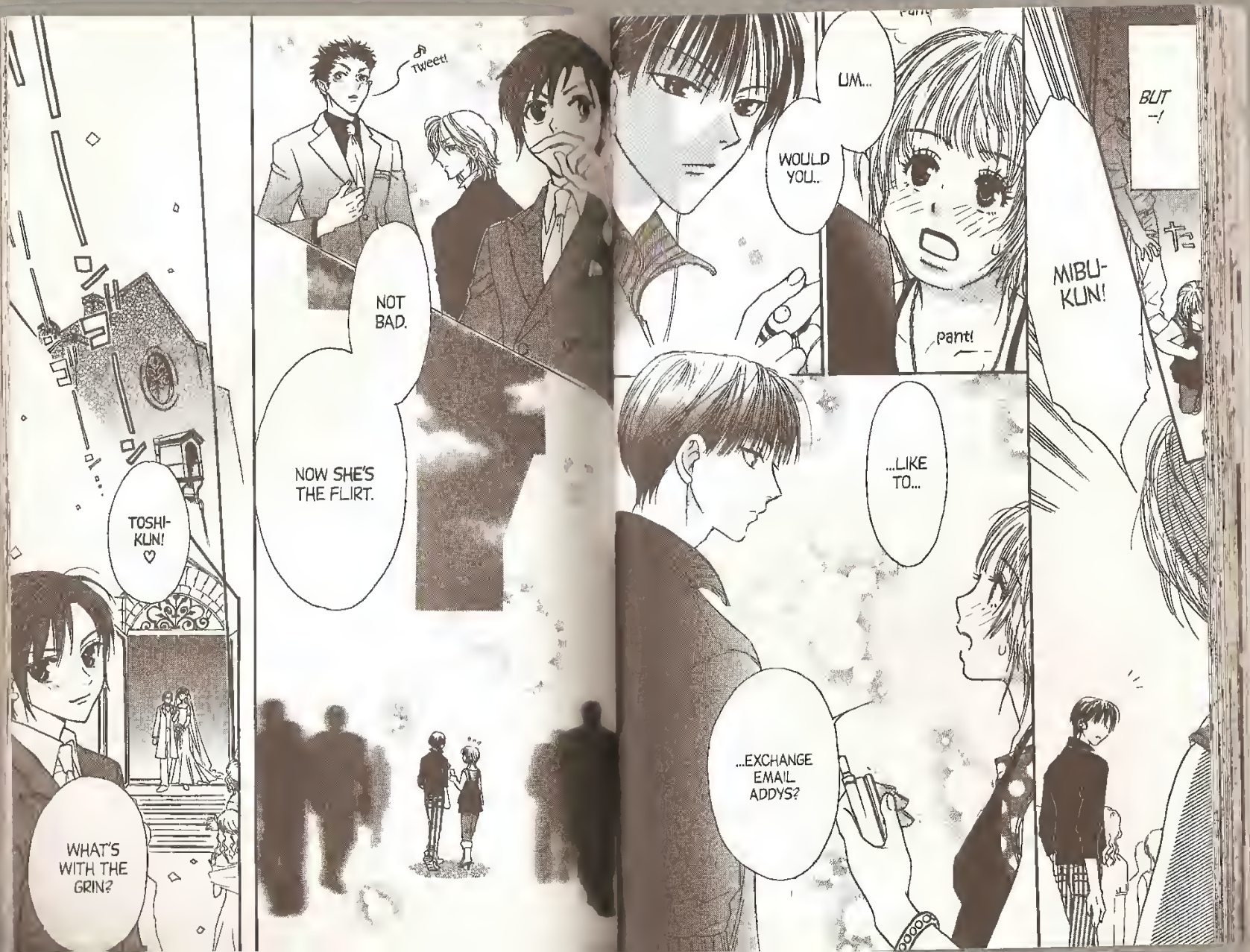
LISTEN TOO ME!
I'LL MAKE A FLIRT-WORTHY GIRL OUT OF YOU!
HEH HEH.
DON'T RUN AWAY NOW, YOU HEAR?
OKAY, TOMORROW, 6 A.M., EBISU BRIDGE
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
OF ALL THE--!
HUH?
Knockout- What now?
..OF THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS, HEREBY ACCEPT YOUR DESIRE TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
NATSUMI HANAKUMA, I, TOSHIHIRO SAKUMA...
THANKS TO THIS GIRLY FACE...
...YOU WERE CALLING ME "HIRO-CHAN" UP UNTIL NOW!!
I'M DRAGGING YOU OUT OF THE WOODS.
WELL, I CAN SEE THAT!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
PHONE CALL.

WAAH!
NOW SIT!
HEY NOW!
I SAID NO WAY--
WHOA
Yipe!
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU BLUSH, NATSUMI-CHAN
DON'T WORRY! NOBUO-KUN'LL MAKE YOU EVEN CUTER... ♡
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT!
THE SLIGHTEST CHANGES SPAWN A GREAT TRANS-FORMATION.. ♡
THEN, I'LL USE BANGS TO SOFTEN UP THE LOOK.
I'LL DO AN UNEVEN SLIDE CUT WITH TUFTS ON TOP FOR CURVE
...AND USE SOFT WAX TO FLUFF IT UP.
CURL THE LONGER BANGS INWARD TO HIDE THAT FOREHEAD...
NOW, IT'S MY TURN.

I UNDERSTAND. BUT..
"K.O.M." IS A MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY GROUP...
MORON.
FAKE AIN'T GONNA CUT IT.
...AND A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST
HOW 'BOUT I FLIRT WITH HER?
SO...
...MADE UP OF A BEAUTY BASICS EXPERT, A TALL HAIR-STYLIST..
SUDDEN SALON RENTALS.. ARE EXPENSIVE
always serious.
Hey, I'm...
AH
SHE'S HERE.
G'MORNING!
DIDN'T RUN AWAY AFTER ALL, HUH?


NO MATTER WHAT YOU WEAR...
...A BEAR'S POSTURE WILL RUIN IT.
LOWER YOUR SHOULDERS.
SUCK YOUR STOMACH IN.
NOW...
...THIS IS THE REAL YOU.
.....!
I REALLY...
...BECAME A WOMAN!
WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET.
...THEY WON'T CALL YOU...
..."BEAR" EVER AGAIN.
TO MAKE YOUR FEATURES LOOK LESS SCRUNCHED...
...I'LL MAKE YOUR EYEBROWS STRAIGHT, THIN AND HORIZONTAL.
I'LL APPLY LIQUID LINER...
AND SHADE THE THE INNER AND OUTER THIRD OF YOUR LOWER EYELID.
A SHADE OF ORANGE BLUSH ALONG THE CHEEKBONE.
...AND TOP IT OFF WITH ORANGE LIP GLOSS.
NOW...


I know this café. Not too flashy, but the food's great!
FINALLY, I TOO...
...HAVE EXPERIENCED...
...BEING FLIRTED WITH.
FINALLY!
WANNA GO OUT FOR A DRINK?
NO PROB, BABE! ♡
SERIOUSLY?!
HE'S LEAVING.
MIBU-KUN.
BUT THIS GUY'S STILL FLIRTING WITH ME!
OH...
KNOCK THOSE FLIRTY JERKS DEAD!
READY AND...
...GO!
UPH!
BUMP
OW...
I'M SORR--
--Y
...
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
Waaah!
LET'S GO!


WHAT'S WITH THE GRIN?
TOSHI-KUN! ♡
♪Tweet!
NOT BAD.
NOW SHE'S THE FLIRT.
...EXCHANGE EMAIL ADDYS?
...LIKE TO...
UM... WOULD YOU..
pant!
MIBU-KUN!
BUT —!

The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 7

MAKE
OU THE
PLOYER
THAT WOULD .
"JOB," YOU SAY?
...MAKES ME REMEMBER WHAT A GREAT JOB THE K.O.M IS
...A SPECIAL MAKEOVER FOR A GIRL I RANDOMLY MET...
...AND SEEING THAT SMILE ON MY MASTER'S FACE...
SOME- HOW...
WELL ...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, NEXT TIME TRY USING ESTABLISHED VENUES
Harsh.
STUDIO LEASE FEES, HOTEL STAY FEE, ETC..
IT'S OUR BUSINESS EXPENSES
THEY WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR SALARY THIS MONTH.
THIS MARKED THE COMING OF A FIERCE WINTER FOR TOSHIHIRO SAKUMA

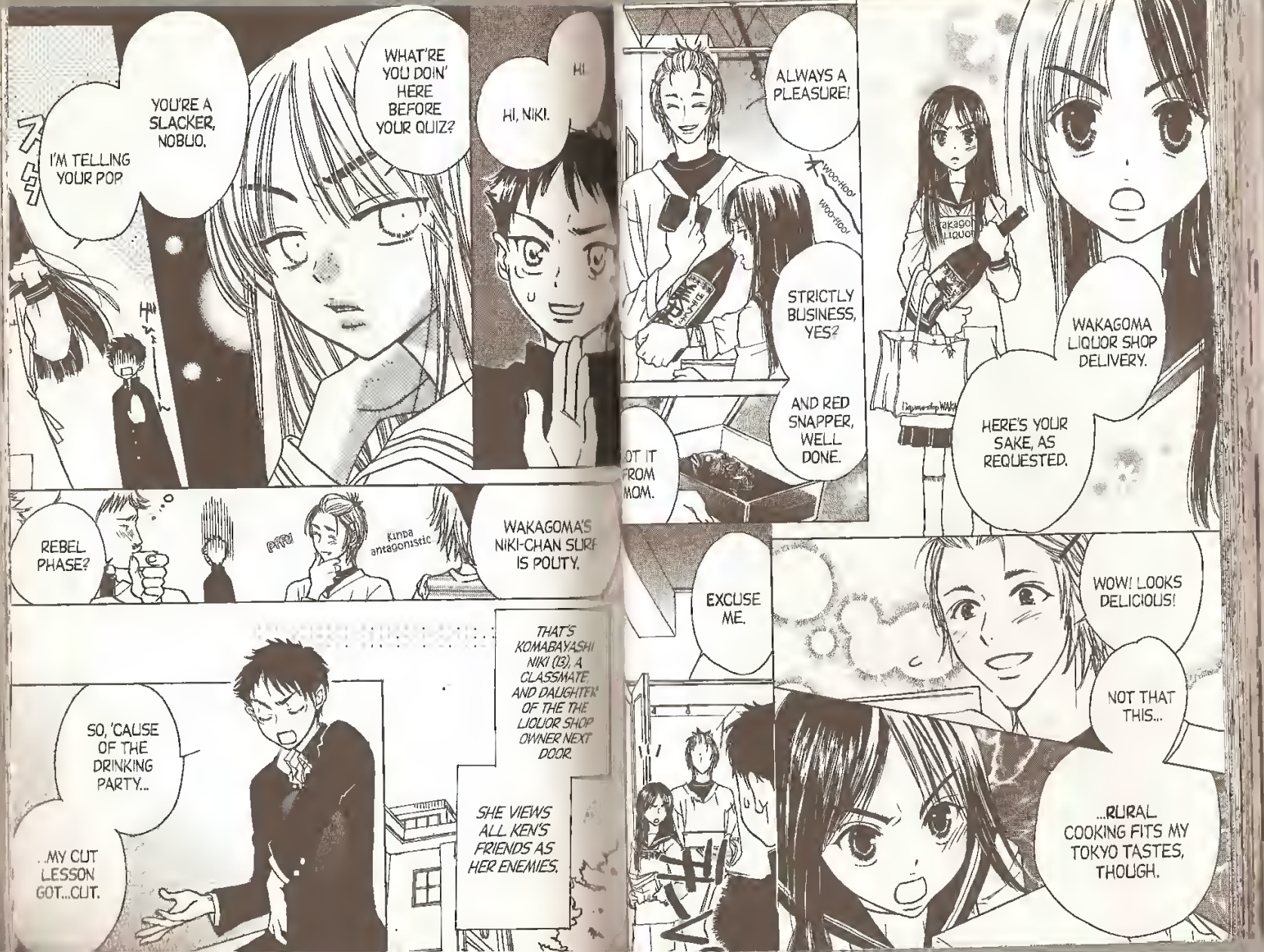
➜ *See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 6/END

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
SEEING AS YOU ONLY TREAT GIRLS' STYLES SERIOUSLY, I'D APPRECIATE LOOKING AT YOUR FACE ..
..WHILE YOU WORK!
HMM
"Gingko Nut"
"Salmon"
SALMON OR GINGKO NUT?
WHICH DO YOU THINK SUITS YOU BETTER?
TODAY IS A HOLIDAY HAIRCUT DAY
So artistic!!
.. Are you listening?
WAAAH! STOP!!
HUH?!
YOU MEAN "GOD"?
YEAH, THAT WAS SEVEN YEARS AGO
I LIVED IN A SMALL HARBOR TOWN IN IZU
THEY STILL CALL HIM THAT
THE GOD OF HAIRSTYLING.

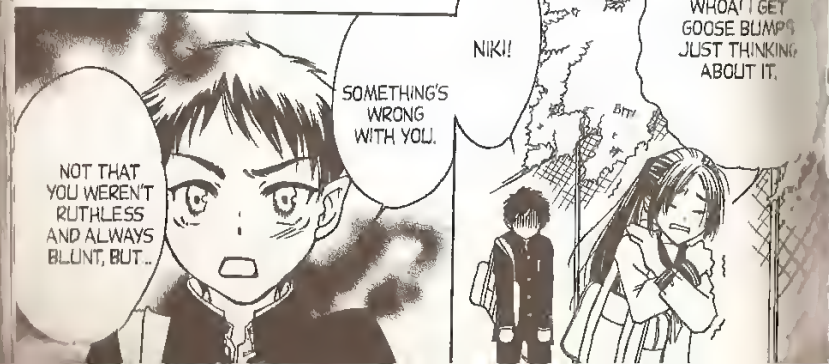
SUPERFLUOUS STYLING IS NOT NECESSARY.
ALSO!
A BEAUTY BASICS EXPERT.
THE MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY GROUP 'KNOCKOUT MAKERS" INCLUDES.
.. for this, too?
I LIKE MY STYLE JUST THE WAY IT IS.
YEAH! I AGREE!
So he made specs...
A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST...
Matsu
3MM OFF OF EVERY-THING.
BUT, PRIORITIZE THESE LENGTHS AS SPECIFIED
NONSENSE!
...AND A TALL HAIR-STYLIST.
THERE'S NO NEW BEAUTY IN MERE MAINTENANCE.
SO...
TSK, TSK!
Change of Wardrobe (2)
RYOUHEI X NOBUYA'S OUTFIT
...I HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.
EITHER WAY...

KENTO INUI, HEAD OF THE FAMOUS TOKYO-OYAMA HAIR SALON...
...OPENED A TINY SALON THERE BECAUSE HE LOVED THE IZU COAST.
SINCE MY FIRST CUT THERE THAT SUMMER...
I DROPPED BY EVERY DAY
Nobuo Shirokawa (Age 12) Junior High Freshmen
BIG BROTHER KEN!
HI.
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
OH!
THAT'S THAT ACTRESS!
OHH!!
PERFORMERS AND MODELS MADE THE LONG TRIP HERE FROM TOKYO.
AMAZING!
KEN SEEMED LIKE ANY OTHER REGULAR GUY..
...BUT THAT'S ALSO WHAT MADE HIM SO COOL.
HEY, KEN!
TEACH ME HOW TO COMB LIKE THAT!
yes, yes.
Purrr...
I SUPPOSE ...
PERHAPS SOMEDAY
WHAAAT?
HEY, IT'S THE TEACHER'S PET!
SORRY, KID! DAY'S OVER. LET THE DRINKING BEGIN!
Buy time! Yeah!
NO FAIR!
BUT, KEN...!
LONG DAY, HUH, KENTO?
Yo!
Wah Ha Ha! Drink, drink!
大漁
HEL-LO?


HI.
HI, NIKI.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE BEFORE YOUR QUIZ?
YOU'RE A SLACKER, NOBUO.
I'M TELLING YOUR POP
HI
REBEL PHASE?
PFFT
Kinda antagonistic
WAKAGOMA'S NIKI-CHAN SURE IS POUTY.
THAT'S KOMABAYASHI NIKI (13), A CLASSMATE, AND DAUGHTER OF THE THE LIQUOR SHOP OWNER NEXT DOOR.
SHE VIEWS ALL KEN'S FRIENDS AS HER ENEMIES.
SO, 'CAUSE OF THE DRINKING PARTY...
...MY CUT LESSON GOT...CUT.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE!
WOO-HOO!
WOO-HOO!
STRICTLY BUSINESS, YES?
AND RED SNAPPER, WELL DONE.
OT IT FROM MOM.
WAKAGOMA LIQUOR SHOP DELIVERY.
HERE'S YOUR SAKE, AS REQUESTED.
EXCUSE ME.
WOW! LOOKS DELICIOUS!
NOT THAT THIS...
...RURAL COOKING FITS MY TOKYO TASTES, THOUGH.

I'M NOT GONNA BE A HAIR SNOB LIKE YOU ALL.
NOT OVER MY DEAD BODY!
THAT'S MEAN
SOURPUSS.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'LL BET SHE'S MAD ABOUT NOBUO-KUN.
HE'S OUTGROWN HER AMATEUR HAIRCUTS
I WONDER.
NIKI, AS USUAL...
SAID EXACTLY WHAT SHE THOUGHT.
NOBU-KUN, PERVERT!
OH MY
I WANNA MAKE ALL THE GIRLS FEEL REALLY GOOD! ♡
THAT BEAUTY PARLOR'S NICE, HUH?
THOUGH Y'KNOW...
...I REALLY WANT THAT LESSON ASAP.
AH, YOU CAN TELL?
HEY, YOUR HAIRSTYLES ARE GETTING PRETTY REFINED.
INUI-SAN'S SO COOL.
THE TOKYO STYLE IS REALLY NEAT.
WE GOT OUR CUTS FROM INUI-SAN! ♡
...YOU SHOULD GET AN INUI-SAN CUT T--
LIKE HELL.
KOMABA-YASHI...
OH!
Can't concentrate
HUH? WHERE YOU GOIN', NIKI?
THE LIBRARY.

YOU'VE TOTALLY PINNED THAT AGGRIVATING OVER-THE-TOP COOL LOOK OF KENTO INUI.
WOW, AWESOME!
A PERFECT IMPRESSION!
Heh Heh!
REALLY? JUST LIKE HIM?!
YEAH, EXACTLY.
HE HOLD SCISSORS THIS, RIGH
THEN SNIP, SNIP, SNIP--

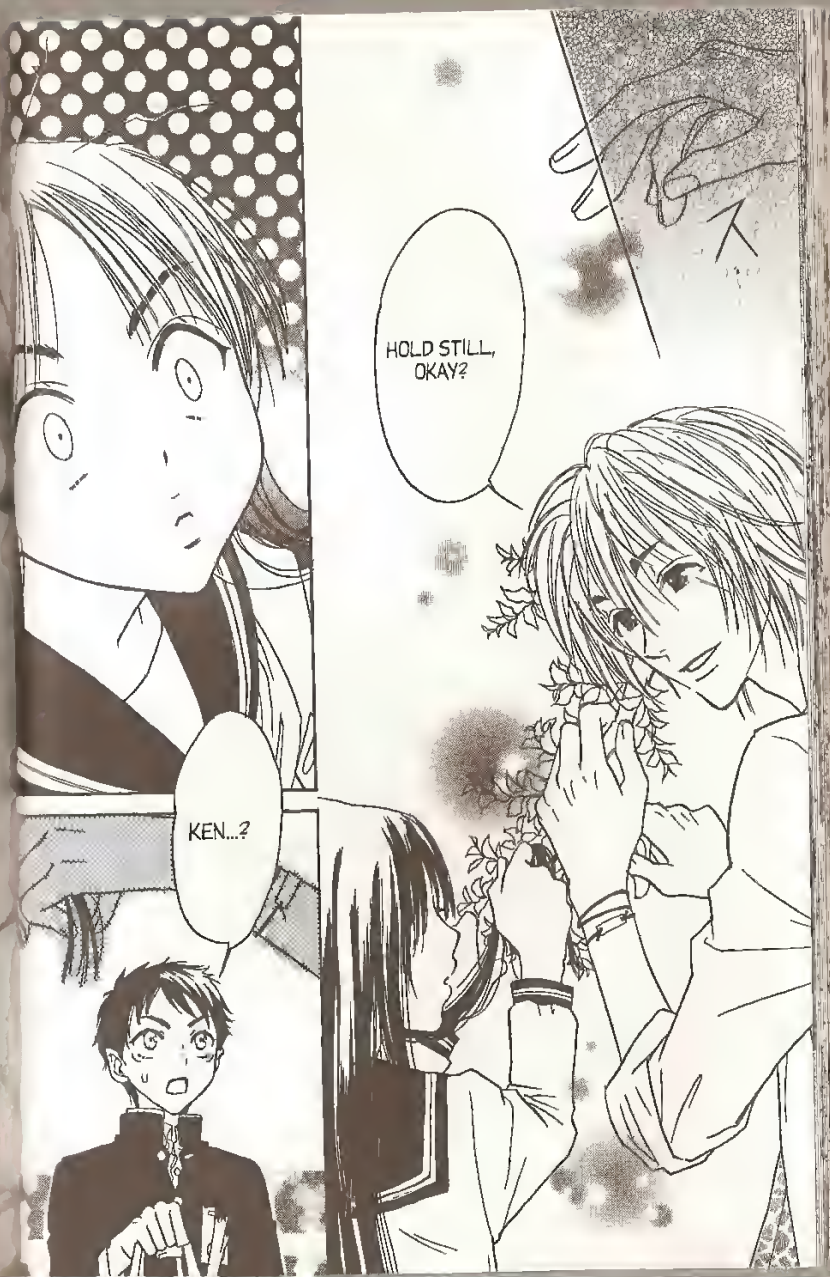

NOT THAT YOU WEREN'T RUTHLESS AND ALWAYS BLUNT, BUT..
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU.
NIKI!
Brrr
WHOA! I GET GOOSE BUMPS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

THE HECK--?!
DEAR OD AND UDDHA..
PLEASE MAKE I COME TO KEN'S LACE WITH ME
SHE HAD REALLY STRONG OPINIONS
Nya, nya!
KIDDING!
Heh Heh!

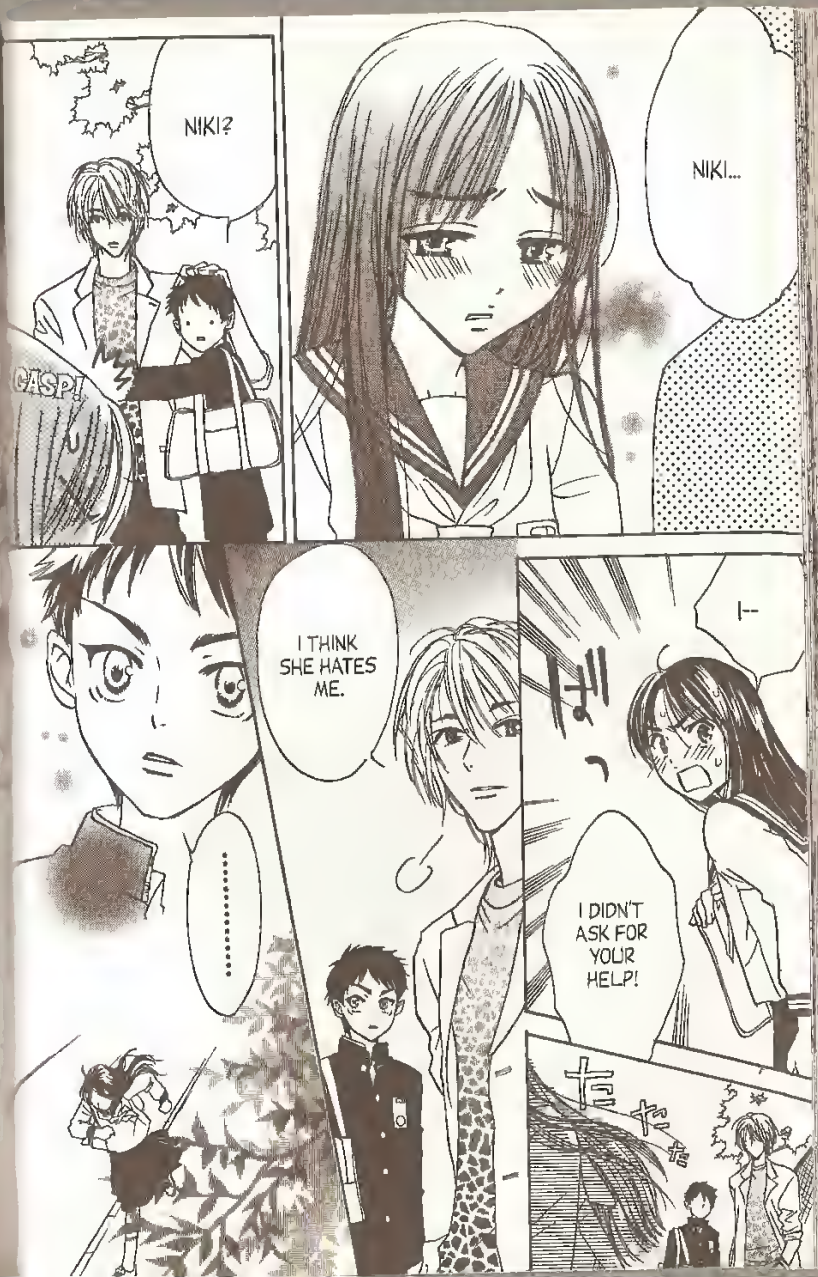
HOW NCREDIBLE EN REALLY IS.
SEE WHAT?
ER, YOU'LL SEE IF YOU COME.
WHY'S THAT?
.....

Aaaah!!
YES! I HATE KENTO INUI.
SO MUCH THAT IT HURTS!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU--
ALL THIS HATRED TOWARD KEN..
I'D RATHER YOU GAVE ME A BUZZ CUT..
..THAN HAVE HIM TOUCH ONE HAIR ON MY HEAD!
THAT'S HOW IT IS!
GOT IT?!
BUZZ... CUT?
HE HASN'T TAUGHT ME THAT YET.
Still so much I wanna learn
MORON.
DON'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY
sigh...
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D TEACH--
!
Ah ha ha ha ha!
GRRR!!
STOP LAUGHING AND HELP.
Klutz...
PFFF!
WHAT ?!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I'LL GET KEN TO CUT IT OUT.
HEY, THIS IS PERFECT.
I'll call him over.
HOLD THIS.

THERE YOU GO.
SEEING HOW LONG IT'S GROWN ...
..THERE'S NO NEED TO CUT OFF SUCH LONG AND PRETTY HAIR
RIGHT?
W-
WOW! YOU'RE SO COOL!
YOU REALLY ARE A "GOD"!
WHAAT ?!

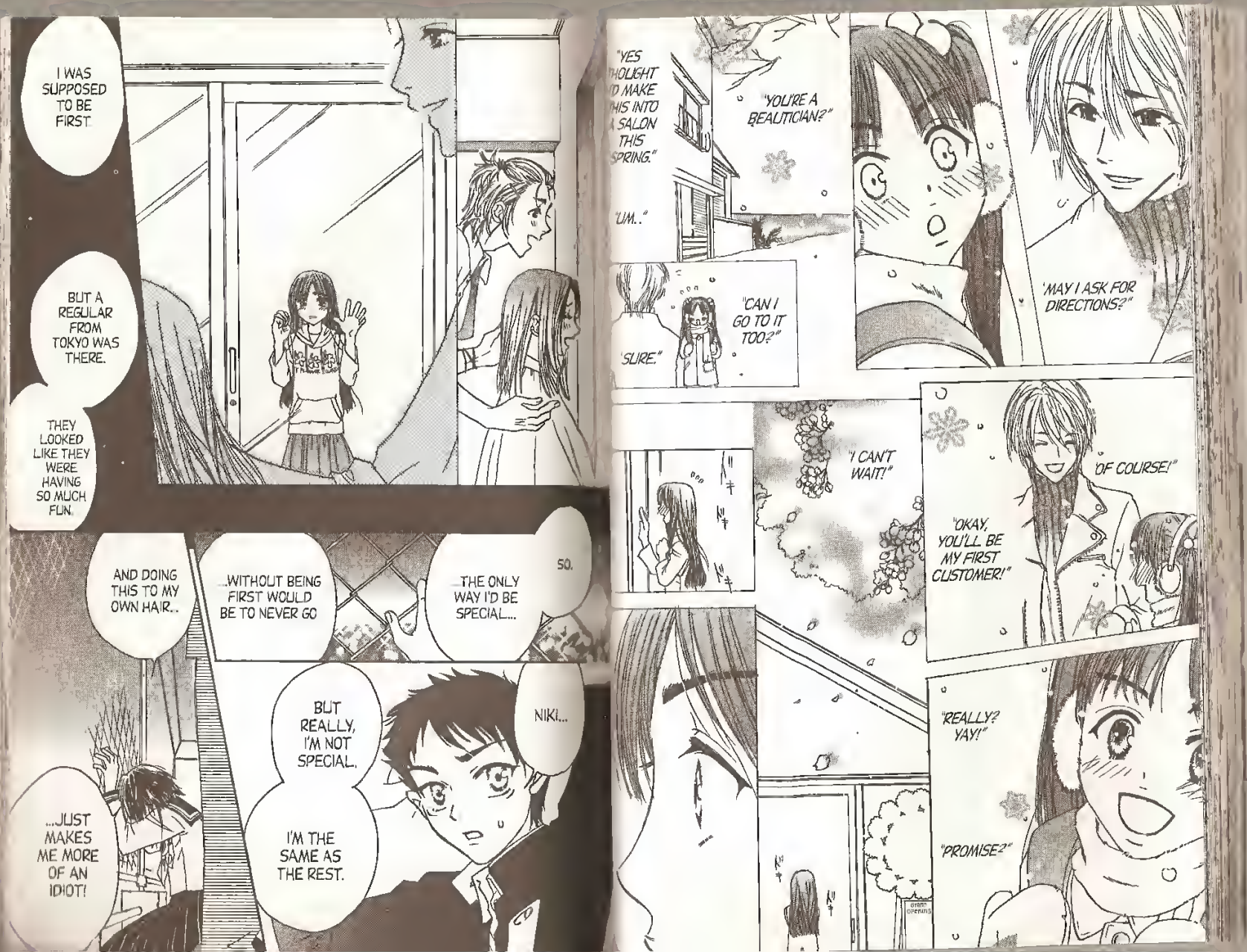

HOLD STILL, OKAY?
KEN...?

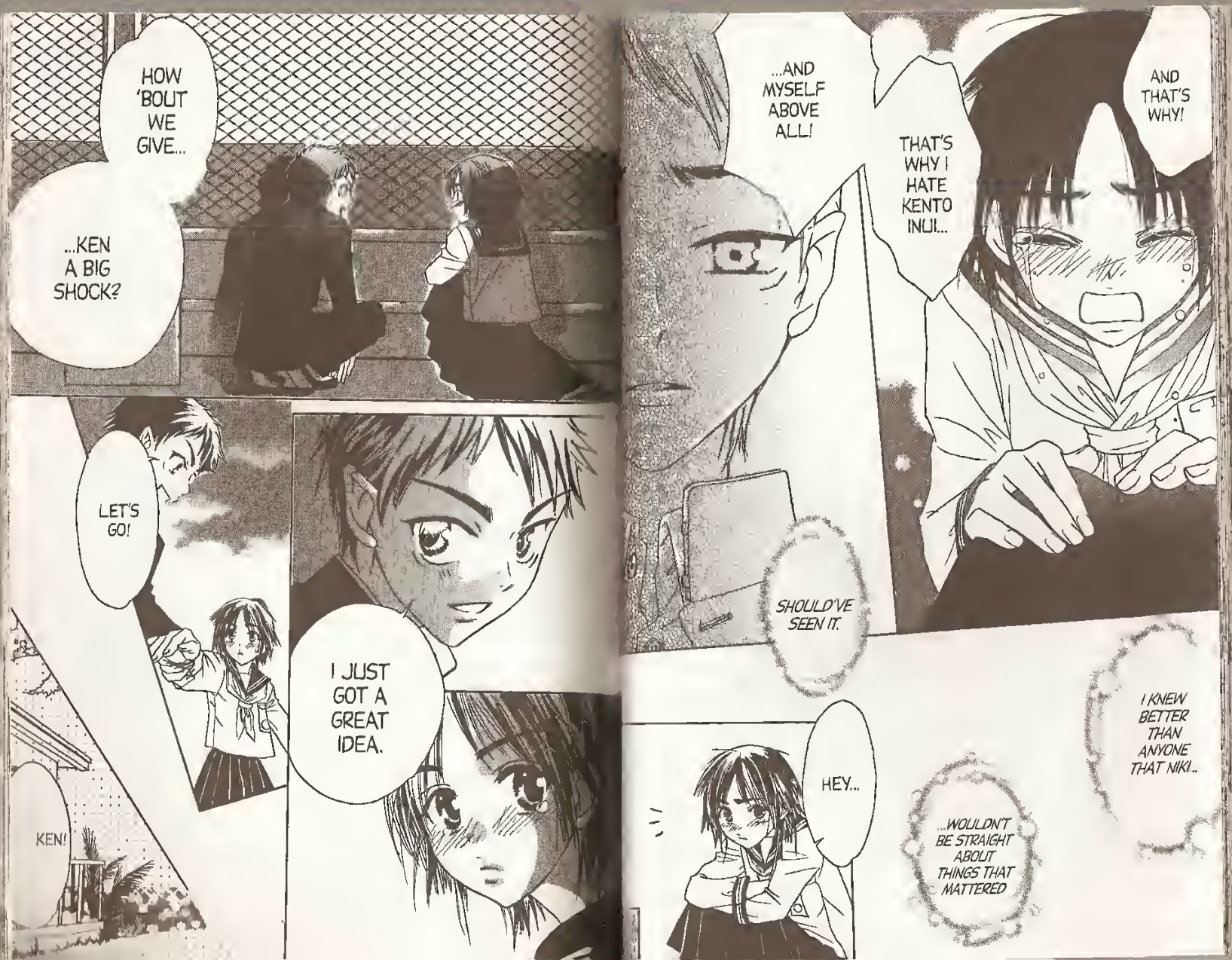
Pant!
Pant!
SIGH
whisper
WHI
TA-DA!
SHOW SOME EXCITE-MENT!
YEAH, YEAH... SCISSORS.
What gives?!
SURE ANYWAY.
COOL, HUH?!
ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING LIKE KEN, HUH?!
BEHOLD MY SCISSORS!!


NIKI?
GASP!
NIKI...
I THINK SHE HATES ME.
.....
I--
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR HELP!

...KOMABAYASHI AND INUI-SAN...
...KISSED, THEY SAY.
seriously!
K--?
YOU SAW IT, TOO?
SPILL!
HUH?
..SHE SURE LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS.
...IS WHAT SNAGGED INUI-SAN, HUH?
RIGHT, KOMABA-YASHI-SAN?
WELL, NOT QUITE, BUT...
WE BOTH SAW YOU.
YOU WERE GIVING OFF LOVEY-DOVEY VIBES!
GUESS THE BAD MOUTH AND LONG HAIR...
I DON'T NEED..
...A GUY LIKE THAT.
snip
OR HIS ATTENTION.
AND I DEFINITELY DON'T..

...NEED HAIR TOUCHED BY...
...KENTO INUI!
NIKI!!
Trash can
CAN I HAVE MY SCISSORS BACK NOW?
AHA!
THE TRUTH IS...
...I HAD ALREADY MET KENTO INUI
...A MONTH BEFORE HE OPENED THE SALON.
"EXCUSE ME"


I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FIRST.
BUT A REGULAR FROM TOKYO WAS THERE.
THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
AND DOING THIS TO MY OWN HAIR..
...WITHOUT BEING FIRST WOULD BE TO NEVER GO
THE ONLY WAY I'D BE SPECIAL...
SO.
...JUST MAKES ME MORE OF AN IDIOT!
BUT REALLY, I'M NOT SPECIAL.
I'M THE SAME AS THE REST.
NIKI...
"YES I THOUGHT I'D MAKE THIS INTO A SALON THIS SPRING."
"UM.."
"YOU'RE A BEAUTICIAN?"
"MAY I ASK FOR DIRECTIONS?"
"SURE."
"CAN I GO TO IT TOO?"
"I CAN'T WAIT!"
"OF COURSE!"
"OKAY, YOU'LL BE MY FIRST CUSTOMER!"
"REALLY? YAY!"
"PROMISE?"


HOW 'BOUT WE GIVE...
...KEN A BIG SHOCK?
LET'S GO!
I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA.
KEN!
...AND MYSELF ABOVE ALL!
THAT'S WHY I HATE KENTO INUI...
AND THAT'S WHY!
SHOULD'VE SEEN IT.
HEY...
...WOULDN'T BE STRAIGHT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTERED
I KNEW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT NIKI..

IT'S OKAY.
STAY CALM.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF NIKI.
JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH.
NO, AND DOUBLE NO!
I REALLY SHOULD BE THE ONE TO--
C'MON.
I dunno.
SURE.
seems so--
That's Kaji Komaya-based chan
YEAH, LET KENTO DO THE CUT.
there are better stylists!
NIKI-CHAN, DON'T DO IT!
CAN I BORROW A SEAT?
SHE'S MY FIRST CUSTOMER
I DON'T MIND, BUT...
Heh heh.
WHAAAT?!

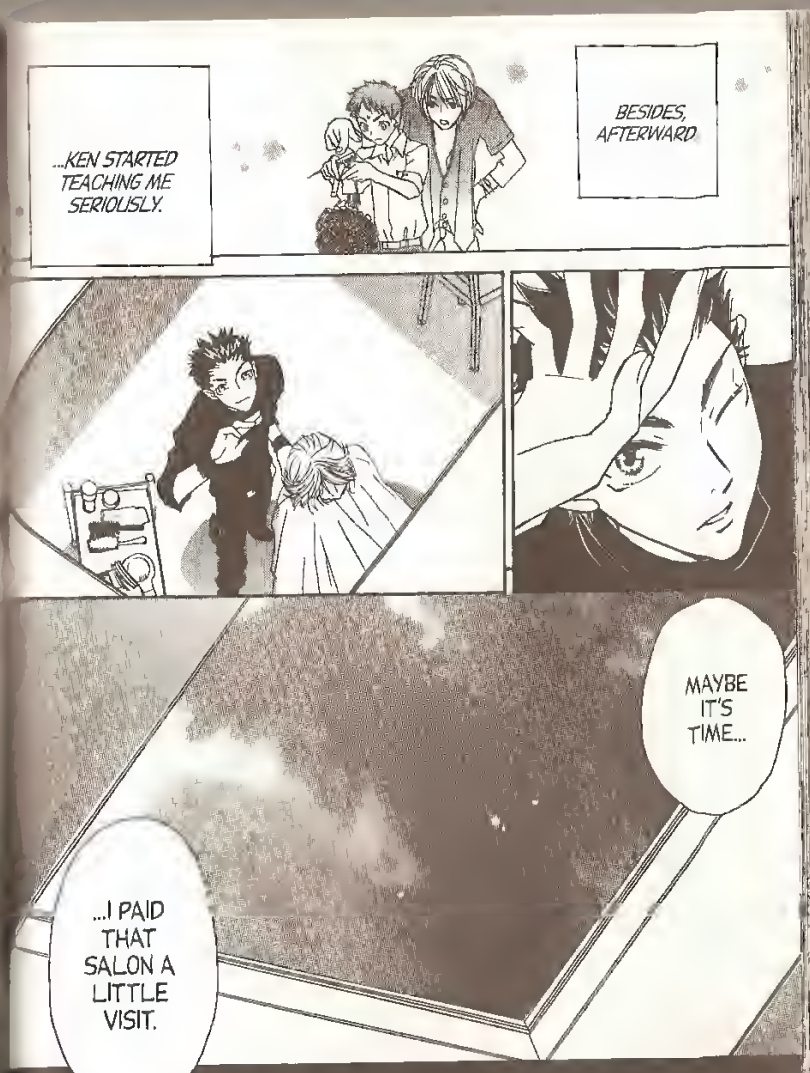
BUT...
SO I SAID, BUT...
YES, OF MY NEW SCISSORS!
SO, THIS IS A TRY-OUT?
"LET'S MAKE HIM JEALOUS! I'LL CUT YOUR HAIR RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES!"
...IF KEN MADE HER LOOK LIKE THIS...
I CAN'T LOSE TO HIM!
...I'VE GOTTA MAKE IT BETTER!
...FOR NOTHING!
I DIDN WATCH PLEASE CLIENT
...WITH HIS SCISSORS EVERY DAY..
ALL DONE!
I FIGURED HE HAD GOOD HANDS, BUT...
HUH...

HOW 'BOUT IT?
KEN?
SHE'S VERY CUTE.
I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO TEACH YOU..
NO!
DON'T DIE, MASTER!
Masterrrrr!
Master...
bing ♪
Nobuo somehow realizes.
..YOU HAVE MASTERED MY SECRETS WELL..
OH, NOBUO...
!
Hack!
MASTER!
You're breaking!

NOT BAD, NOBUO!
GUESS HE'S A CHILD PRODIGY AFTER ALL.
R-REALLY?!
Bring on the Praise!
SHE LOOKS LIKE A TEEN IDOL!
Yeah, yeah!!
Oooh!
IT'S MY OWN STYLE, BUT...

AND SO, NOBUO THE BRAVE SUCCEEDED MASTER KENTO.
THE QUEST FOR THE LEGENDARY AURORA HAIR CLIPPERS...
WHATEVER.
NO NEED TO BLOW A FUSE.
...YOU DEFEATED YOUR "MASTER"?
..YEAH.
I SUPPOSE I DID
SO...
BUT I FOUND SOMETHING BIGGER...
...THAN WINNING OR LOSING.
AFTER ALL...
LONG'S GOOD TOO, BUT...
..SHORT REALLY SUITS YOU.
THANK YOU.
YOU DID IT ALL, NOBUO.
I'VE DECIDED!
...EVEN IF IT DIDN'T BELONG TO ME
I'LL BECOME SPECIAL TO INUI-SAN, HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES!
...I GOT TO SEE NIKI'S SMILE.

A WHITE WEDDING DRESS IS WHAT EVERY GIRL WANTS.
BUT A DRESS MADE FOR YOU BY YOUR BELOVED....
...WOULD BE THE FINEST DRESS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.



→*See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 7/END

WHAT? YOU'RE SUPER-PRETTY!
Dressing Room A
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR MODELING.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT REAL DRESSES.
MY DESIGNS ARE GOOD, TOO.
Hitoe Tanigami (19)
Sophomore in Clothing Design Technical College

Change of Wardrobe (3)

NOBUO X TOSHIHITO'S OUTFIT

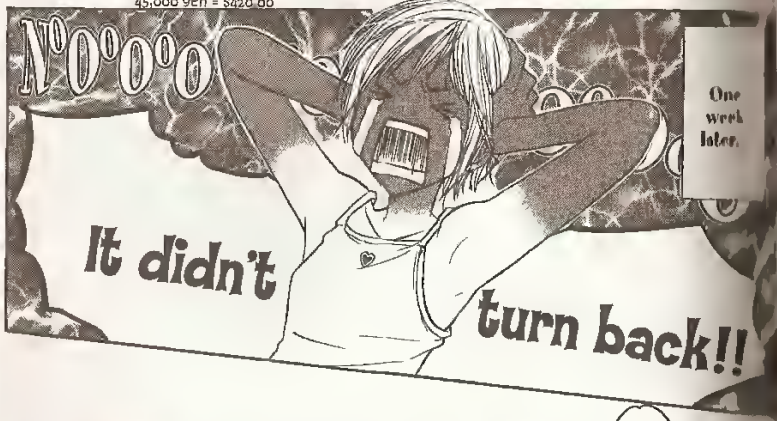
The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 8

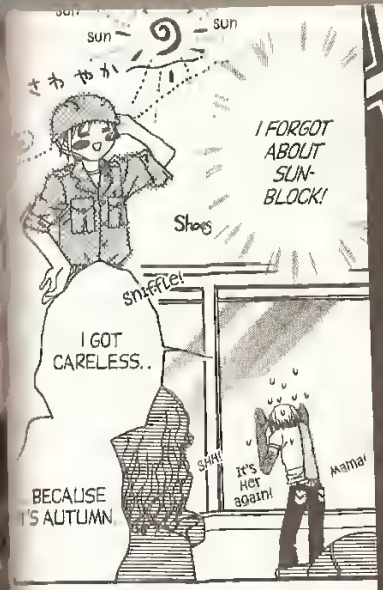
HAVING SAID THAT.
..MAYBE I SHOULD BUY THEM INSTEAD.
MAYBE I'LL BORROW SOME.
Shoes CHALIC
MM?
WHAT'S THIS?
CAN'T BUY THAT.
HIRING!! Part-time short-term
Work in the exciting world of construction, guiding traffic past the site. People of all backgrounds and abilities welcome! Daily wage starts at 4,000 yen. Come in for inquiries.
It's not polite to stare
Matmah Rane Girl~
WITH A DRESS LIKE THAT..
..I NEED PERFECT FEET!
MAYBE SOME WHITE SATIN..
GUCCI The Icon
¥49,500.—
THIS MUST BE A GIFT FROM HEAVEN!
THE WAIST IS PERFECT AND IT'S SUPER SHORT!
I COULD BUY THOSE SHOES!
SO FOR THREE DAYS, I MANAGED TRAFFIC AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE.

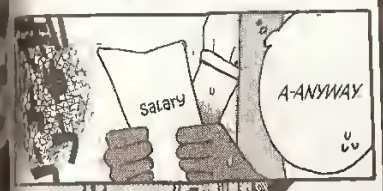
...I OFFERED IT TO HER FIRST.
BUT AYA INSISTED..
..THAT YOU MODEL IT INSTEAD, HITOE.
THIS IS YOUR GRADUATION THESIS DRESS, SO...
..TSU-YOSHI..
WHAT I MEAN IS...
..HOW CAN YOU LET ANOTHER GIRL WEAR IT IN FRONT OF AYA?
WELL..
HEH HEH
R-REALLY?
BUT...
YOU'RE TALLER. IT GIVES ME ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT IDEAS.
HAVE ANY WHITE PUMPS, HITOE?
NONE NOW, BUT I'LL MANAGE.
THERE'S STILL A MONTH 'TIL THE SHOW.
SHEESH!
SORRY FOR TAKING UP SO MUCH CLOTH!
Sorry
...I RAN OUT OF CLOTH BEFORE I GOT TO THE SHOES.

WITH THIS SUPER-WHITENING LOTION..
I SHOULD BE WHITE AGAIN SOON!
Kaname Brand
Extra Blanc
Melano Light
Essence
15g 15 000 yen
HUFF!
HUFF!
..YOUR STRONGEST WHITENER?
IT'S RIGHT HERE.
Y-YES...
45,000 yen = $420.00


N°0°0°0
One week later.
It didn't
turn back!!

SO...
...YOU CAME CRYING TO K.O.M.

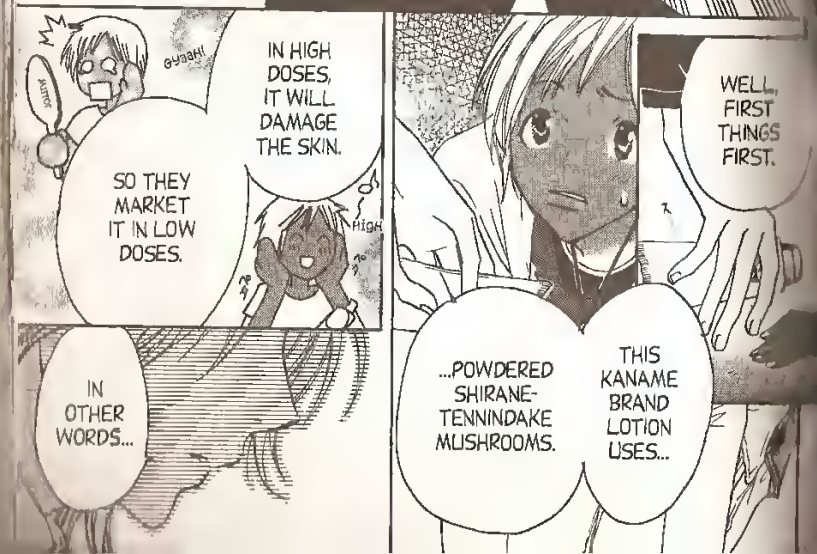

sun
sun
さわやか
I FORGOT ABOUT SUN-BLOCK!
Shoes
sniffle!
I GOT CARELESS..
BECAUSE IT'S AUTUMN.
sigh!
It's her again!
Mama!


Salary
A-ANYWAY

GOTTA GET BACK TO MY OLD SELF!!
EXCUSE ME!

AND I GOT TOTALLY SUNBURNT!
!!!

I CAN'T LET BOTH MY FRIENDS DOWN!
...I HAVE TO WHITEN BEFORE THE SHOW IN TWO WEEKS!
PLEASE!
I'LL DO ANY-THING!!


GYAAH!
IN HIGH DOSES, IT WILL DAMAGE THE SKIN.
SO THEY MARKET IT IN LOW DOSES.
HIGH
IN OTHER WORDS...
WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST.
...POWDERED SHIRANE-TENNINDAKE MUSHROOMS.
THIS KANAME BRAND LOTION USES...

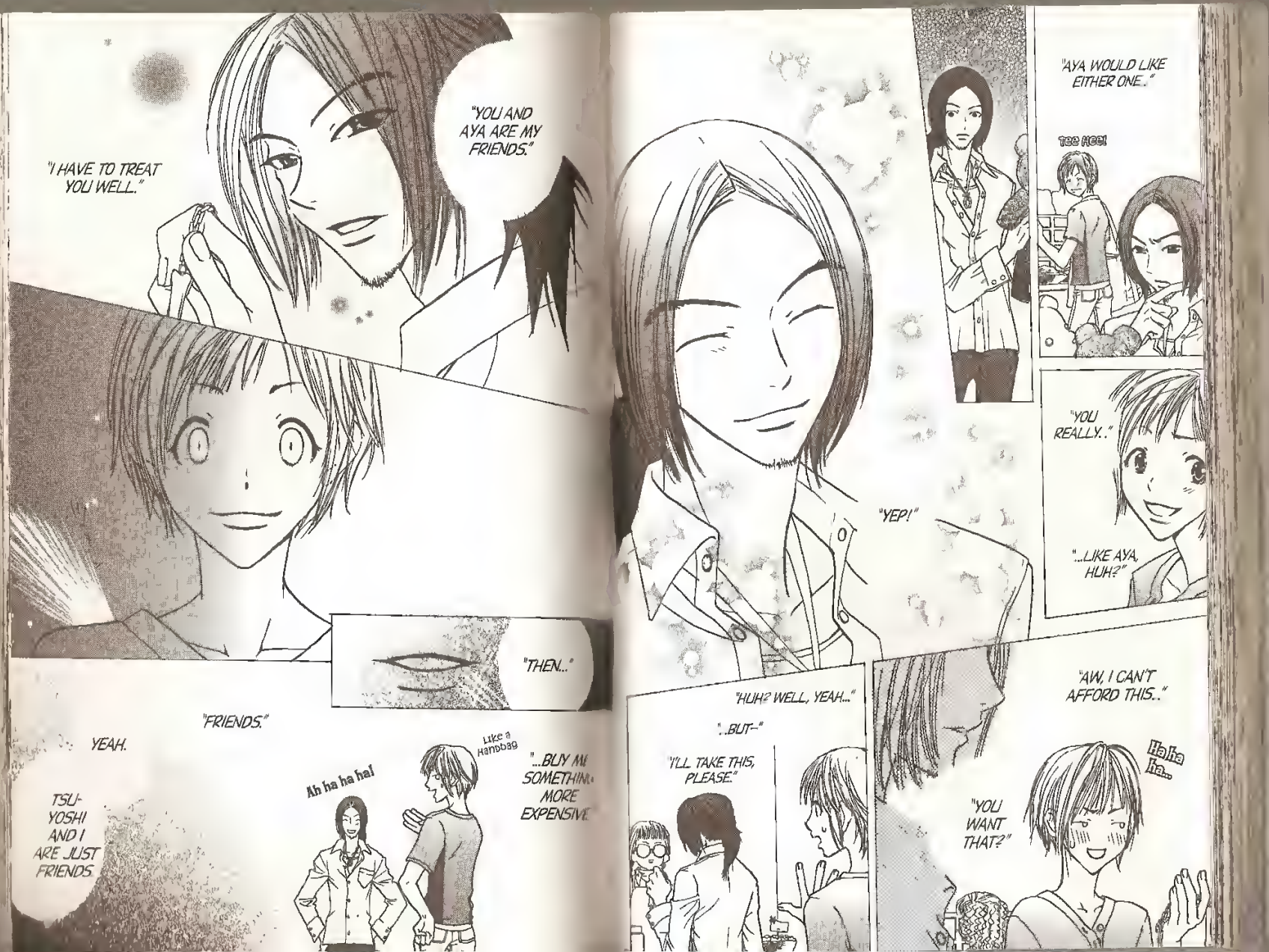
IT TAKES A MONTH FOR NEW CELLS TO COMPLETELY REPLACE THE OLD.
28 DAYS
LIKE HAIR AND NAILS, YOU MUST WAIT FOR NEW SKIN GROWTH.
SORRY, BUT BURNT SKIN DOESN'T REGAIN ITS ORIGINAL COLOR.
...YES.
RETURNING TO NORMAL SKIN IN TWO WEEKS...
...IS BASICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

WELL!
RECKLESS OR NOT...
SUCH A CRAZY REQUEST IS A FIRST FOR ME.

LET'S GO CLIMBING, SHALL WE?
TOYAMA AND KENTATEYAMA PEAKS ARE THE SOURCE FOR SHIRANE-TENNINDAKE.
YOU SEE, I'D RATHER DIE...
...THAN CAMP OUT IN A BIVOUAC.
Grr!
TOO FAST...!
W--
WAIT UP...
Pant
TOO SLOW.
Pant
Pant
Pant
Pant
HOWEVER, IT TAKES THE PROPER MUSHROOMS.
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING...
...CORRECT, MS. TANIGAMI?
...AT A DOSE BELOW THE HARMFUL LEVEL...
...SPEEDY WHITENING IS NO FANTASY.
AM I WRONG?

THEN, SUDDENLY ONE DAY...
"WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?"
"AYA HIME-JIMA."
"I'VE LIKED YOU FOR A WHILE"
HE STARTED DATING MY FRIEND AYA
"THEY SAY HE'S GREAT AT RUGBY, TOO."
I COULDN'T PULL MY EYES AWAY.
..AND ME, TOO.
SUPPOSEDLY FRIGID TSUYOSHI...
...ALWAYS LOOKED KINDLY UPON AYA...
ONE DAY, I WENT TO BUY AYA'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
MAKING IT HARDER WHEN WE WERE APART.
...IT FELT NATURAL THAT WE ALL STICK TOGETHER.
BEFORE LONG.
"...WHITE OR RED?"

...AND SWEATY AND ICKY-FEELING!
THAT'S WHY I'M HOT AND HEAVY...
TO JUST WALK AHEAD LIKE THAT...
HE MUST BE COLD-BLOODED.
WHAT AM I DOING?
Hat and Hood
Goggles
Gloves
Scarf
WHAT...?
IT'S PROTECTION...
...SO I DON'T BURN ANY FURTHER!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
I DON'T NEED THIS.
"TSUYOSHI FUKAKUSA, HE'S GREAT."
"TOP OF THE CHART AGAIN! SO COOL..."
TSUYOSHI...
TSU-YOSHI'S DRESS...


"I HAVE TO TREAT YOU WELL."
"YOU AND AYA ARE MY FRIENDS."
"THEN..."
"FRIENDS."
YEAH.
TSU-YOSHI AND I ARE JUST FRIENDS.
Ah ha ha ha!
Like a handbag
"...BUY ME SOMETHING MORE EXPENSIVE."
"YEP!"
"HUH? WELL, YEAH..."
"..BUT--"
"I'LL TAKE THIS, PLEASE."
"AYA WOULD LIKE EITHER ONE.."
tee hee!
"YOU REALLY.."
"...LIKE AYA, HUH?"
"AW, I CAN'T AFFORD THIS.."
Ha ha ha..
"YOU WANT THAT?"

HERE.
THAT'S QUITE A FRIENDSHIP.
THAT'S NOT IT.
...IN-STEAD OF AYA.
...WEARING HIS DRESS...
..TSU-YOSHI WOULD SEE ME...
--SO SHE SAID. BUT THAT MEANT...
"I'M TOO SHORT. PLEASE MODEL TSUYO-KUN'S DRESS FOR ME!"
NOT IT AT ALL.
"HITOE, PLEASE"
JUST FRIENDS.
...THEN CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN, ALL FOR A FRIEND'S DRESS?
YOU WORKED A PART-TIME UNTIL YOU GOT SUNBURNED...
SO, YOU'RE AWAKE?

THAT'S FOR YOU TO DECIDE, ISN'T IT?
WE'LL LEAVE AFTER FIXING THAT UP
YOUR TEARS...
...ARE MAKING THE SUN-BLOCK RUN.
I DON'T KNOW...!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT AYA AND HER BOYFRIEND...
THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE!

Change of Wardrobe (4)
TOSHIHITO X NOBUO'S OUTFIT
dazzling.
WHAT DO I WANT?
WHAT DO I WANNA DO?
pant
HEY...
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
FOR ME TO DECIDE?
LET'S GO.

BEAUTIFUL...
I WISH AYA AND TSUYOSHI...
...COULD SEE THIS TOO.
I LIKE TSUYOSHI.
I DON'T WANNA LOSE EITHER.
BUT I REALLY LIKE AYA.
I WANT IT TO STAY THE THREE OF US.

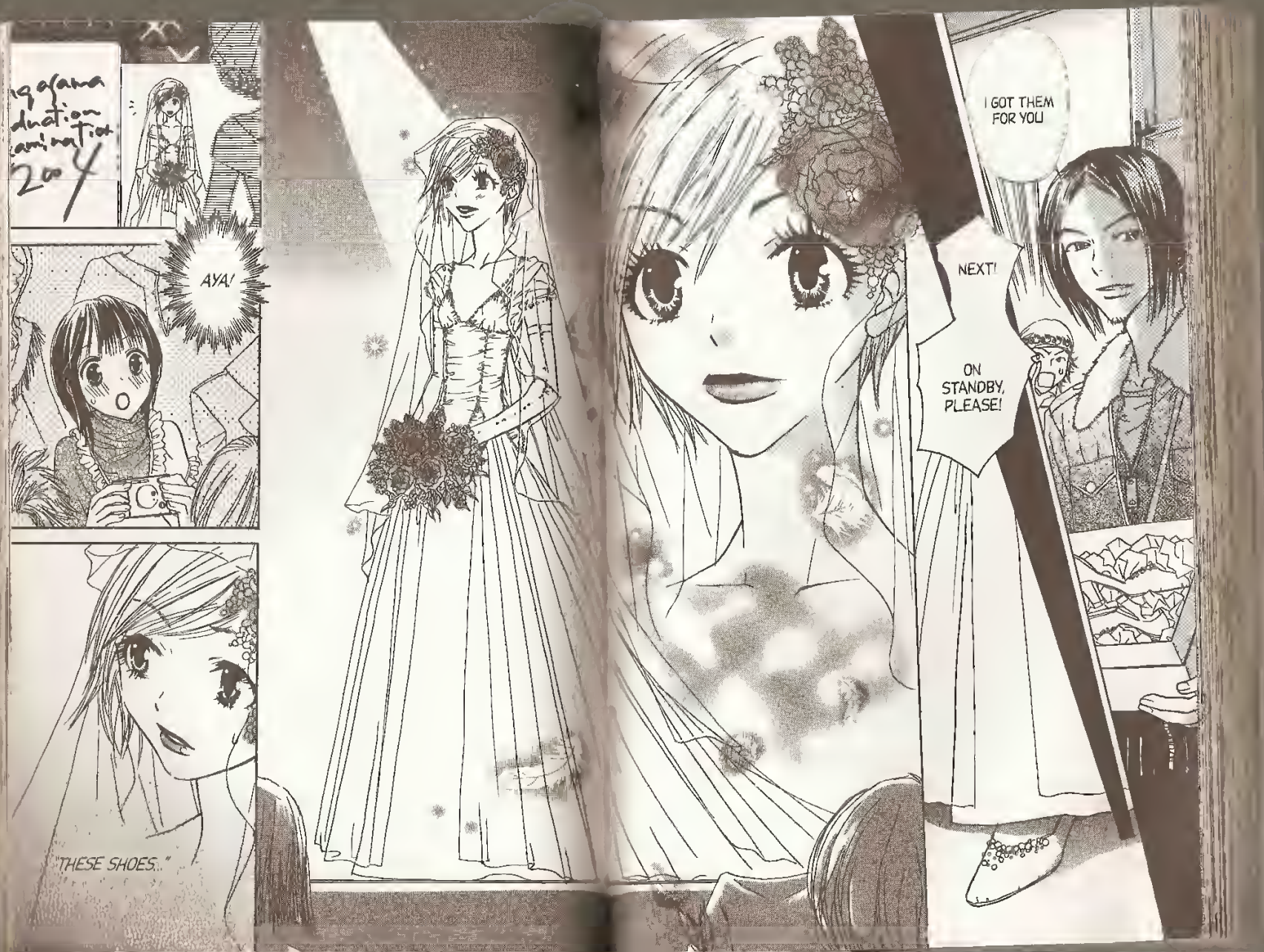
KANAME COSMETICS NATURAL INGREDIENTS RESEARCH CENTER.
SOURCE OF THE SHIRANE-TENNINDAKE MUSHROOM.
.....!
HEY, YOU TWO!
...DON'T TELL ME WE'RE STEALING THE--
WAIT...
YOU TWO SEEM SUSPICIOUS.
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ARE FORBIDDEN!
EXIT
YIKES!
WHAT COMPANY ARE YOU FROM?!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
AH, ER...
THERE'S A ROAD!
WE COULD'VE DRIVEN HERE!
THIS AREA IS ALL KANAME PRIVATE PROPERTY.
THIS WAS THE ONLY DIRECT ROUTE
THEY'D STOP US IF WE'D DRIVEN.
YES.
SO, I'LL WEAR THE DRESS AND END IT THERE.
THAT SOUND GOOD?
I, RYOUHEI MATSUDA...
...HEREBY ACCEPT YOUR DESIRE TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
COME. THE MUSHROOMS WE SEEK ARE NEAR.
HEH HEH!
MUSH-ROOM HUNT!!
YAY!

IF THEY'RE CORPO-RATE SPI--
B-BUT DIREC-TOR!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I KNOW THIS MAN.
DIRECTOR!
YOU THERE.
GIVE THEM THREE UNITS.
Y-YES, SIR!
Here
...HE'S GIVEN US A GRAND SHOW.
STILL...
I'D HAVE NEVER IMAGINED YOU TO BOW YOUR HEAD...
THIS WAY
I'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE BASE STATION.
...MASTER RYOUHEI.
SO, UM... ER..
Panic
I REALLY WANNA WHITEN UP QUICK!
...GIVE US SOME...
P-PLEASE
PLEASE.
..SHIRANE-SOMETHING 'SHROOMS!
COULD WE HAVE SOME SHIRANETEN-NINDAKE?
I BEG YOU.
BOW ALL YOU WANT..
..BUT IF THE COMPANY DOESN'T SAY SO--
IT'S FINE BY ME.

...AND A BEAUTY BASICS EXPERT.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WHEN RYOUHEI'S IN MAGIC MODE.
OUR TURNS COME LATER ANYWAY.
COULD YOU PLEASE...
..WITHHOLD COMMENTS UNTIL THE VERY END?
IS COMING HERE REALLY OKAY?
UM...
I MEAN, UM...
SHH.
THE "KNOCKOUT MAKERS" ARE A MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY GROUP...
...WITH A TALL HAIR-STYLIST...
Yawn...
MAN, HE'S ONE TOUGH COOKIE.
NOT EVEN A NAP AFTER MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?!
YEAH.
...A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST..

THEN, I'LL WRAP IT OVER YOU FOR FIVE MINUTES.
I'LL SPREAD THIS OUT ONTO COTTON.
BY USING THIS METHOD...
...THE INGREDIENTS WILL GENTLY PERMEATE YOUR SKIN.
THE MAIN EVENT IS IN TWO WEEKS.
LET'S WORK HARD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FRIENDS.
AND THEN...
YOU BET!
ADD TO THAT MY SPECIALLY HANDMADE...
..SHIRANETEN-NINDAKE EXTRACT WHITENING BEAUTY LOTION.
Let's see...
"6 A.M., WAKE UP. 10 P.M., SLEEP." "2+ TOMATOES DAILY"...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
YOU WILL FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE DURING YOUR STAY HER
YOU NEED PROPER SLEEP..
...FOR VITAMIN C AND LYCOPINE ABSORPTION.
pulled an all-nighter
FURTHER SPECIAL CARE IS SCHEDULED FOR MORNING AND EVENING.
FIRST, GENTLE CLEANSING IN LUKEWARM WATER
WE'LL SOAK YOUR SKIN WITH WET TOWELS..
...AND APLY ALCOHOL-FREE MOISTURIZER WITH COTTON FOR THREE MINUTES...
it's cold!

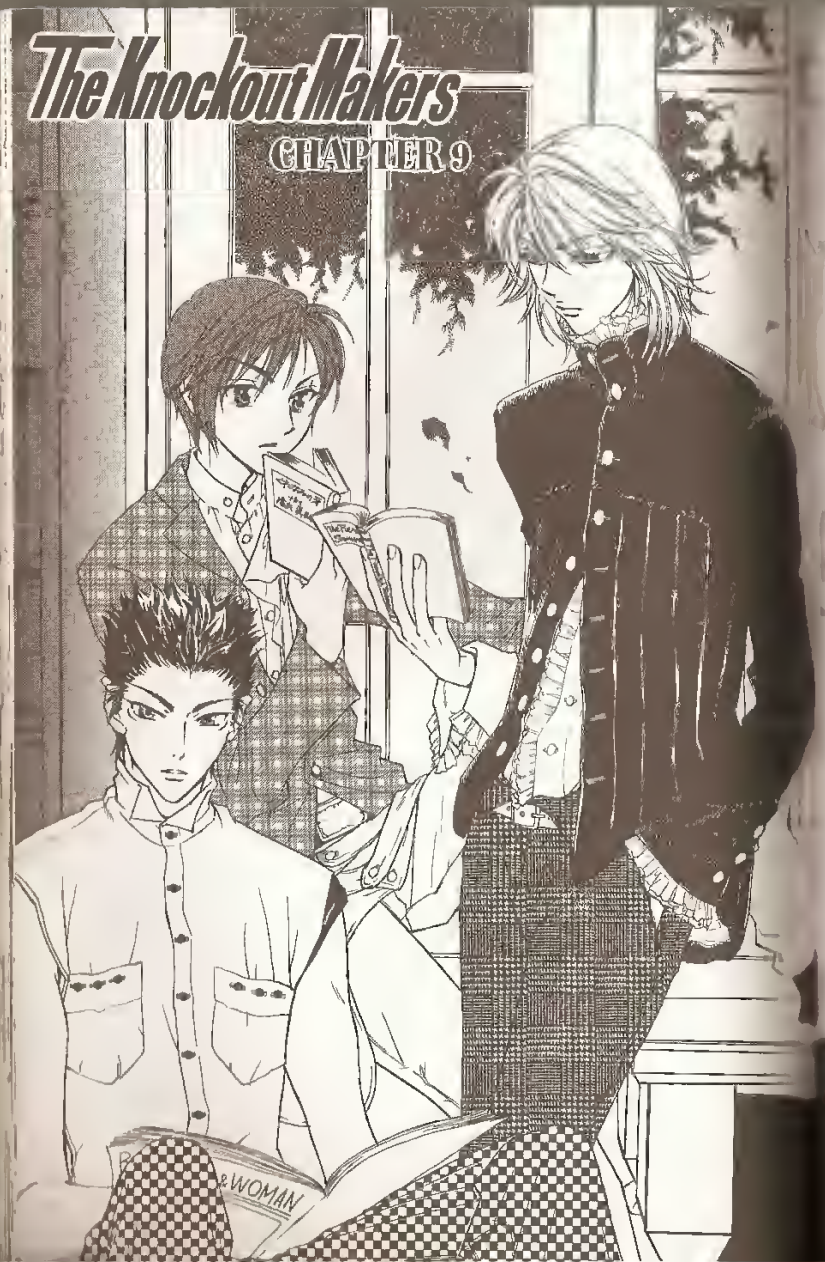
LOTS OF PURPLE MASCARA AT THE CORNERS OF THE EYES.
PALE BLUE ALL OVER THE EYELIDS WITH DOUBLE VIOLET LINES FOR CONTRAST.
...AND A TOUCH OF PURPLE-TINGED PINK ON THE LIPS TO WRAP UP.
ROSE ON CHEEKS, TOWARD THE SIDES.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
WANNA CHECK IT OUT?
TURQUOISE BELLFLOWER OVER LILAC...
AND A BOUQUET J OVER ONE EY LIKE .SO.
OKAY, PURPLE MAKEUP IT IS!
Complete protection against
AFTER NOT HEARING FROM YOU FOR TWO WEEKS, I THOUGHT—
HITOE!
...IT WAS THE DAY OF THE RECITAL.
Dressing Room A
OKAY, THAT'S ...AM ENOUGH
ERR...
WE'RE SETTING UP.
HUH?
...KE YA ...ATER! ♡
OH NO!
WHAT ABOUT THE PUMPS?
YOU MEAN THE SHOES?
THE VEIL REALLY COMPLETES THE LOOK
STAFF
I DIDN'T THINK THAT...
...YOU COULD BE MORE BEAUTIFUL
I'LL DIVIDE YOUR HAIR INTO 2 AND HAVE THE TIPS OF THE BANGS SPLAY OUT A BIT.
SO THAT THE VEIL LOOKS GOOD ON YOUR HAIR...
ADD SOME HAIR CREAM TO TIGHTEN THE REST UP, AND HAVE THE SIDES FLOW TO THE BACK.
...OFF WITH THE FUZZ!
LET'S SHAVE THE FACE, BACK, AND EVEN ARMS...
...TO GET THE KERATIN DOWN AND THE TRANSPARENCY UP!
IT'S OKAY.
WE'RE FROM K.O.M. TOO. I'M TOSHIHIRO.
Room A
UH...
AND I'M NOBUO! ♡
BEFORE PUTTING THE DRESS ON...
STAFF


AYA!
"THESE SHOES..."
I GOT THEM FOR YOU
NEXT!
ON STANDBY, PLEASE!

EH?
AYA
THANKS FOR THE SHOES.
YOU WERE REALLY PRETTY.
BUT!
!!
!!!!!
I WONDER --
TSUYO KUN'S MINE.
..SO DON'T STEAL HIM, OKAY?!
I'LL LOOK MY PRETTIEST...
OH, AYA.
THANK YOU. I'LL WEAR THEM WITH PRIDE.
"THEY'RE FROM AYA."
"SHE WORKED PART-TIME TO BUY THEM."
...IN TSUYOSHI'S DRESS. ALL FOR YOU, AYA.
わあああああ
IT'S THE FINALE.
LET'S GO!
AYA!
パチパチパチパチ

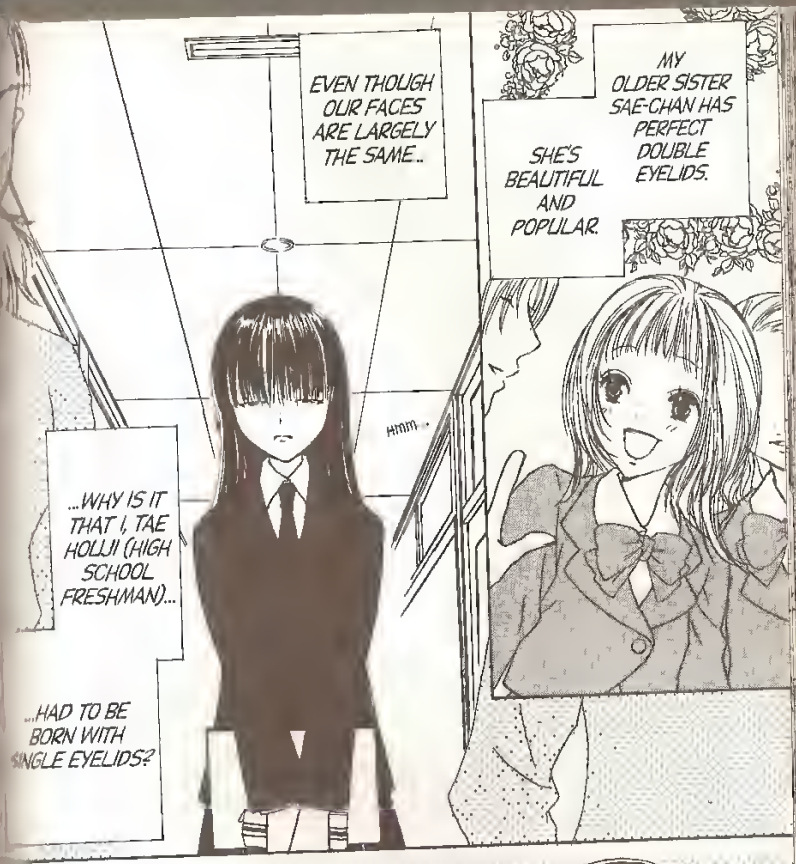
I FINALLY SET THINGS RIGHT, DIDN'T I?
MATSUDA-SAN!
HUFF!
HUFF!
GOODBYE, THEN
ALL SHOW PERSONNEL, PLEASE ASSEMBLE FOR PHOTO SHOOT.
DING-A LING
I, UM--!
HUFF!
UM...
MA-TSUDA-SAN!
COME TO THE STAGE IMMEDIATELY
YOU HEARD HIM.
I REPEAT...

IF I WERE THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE BEAUTY...
WHAT?!
JUST KIDDING.
TSUYOSHI'D STILL HAVE EYES...
..ONLY FOR YOU.
MATSUDA-SAN..
AYA, COME ON THE STAGE, TOO.
HEY, TSUYOSHI, HELP OUT!
R-RIGHT!
ARE YOU WATCHING THIS?



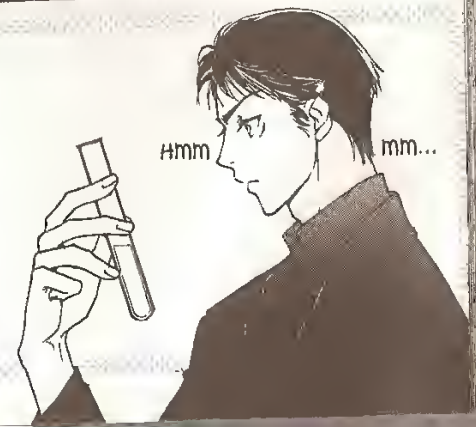
→*See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 8/END

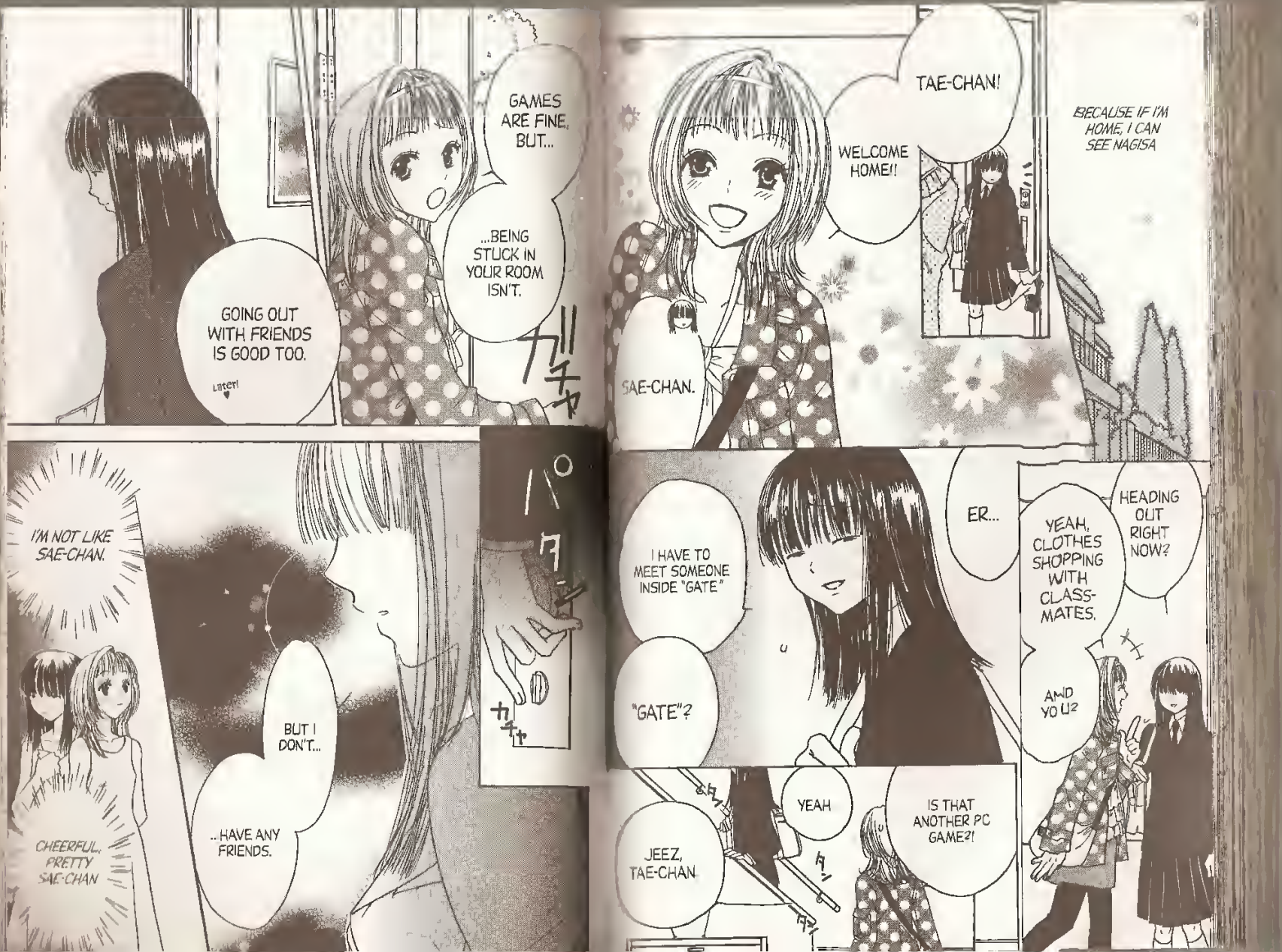

EVEN THOUGH OUR FACES ARE LARGELY THE SAME..
MY OLDER SISTER SAE-CHAN HAS PERFECT DOUBLE EYELIDS.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR.
Hmm...
...WHY IS IT THAT I, TAE HOLLI (HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)...
...HAD TO BE BORN WITH SINGLE EYELIDS?

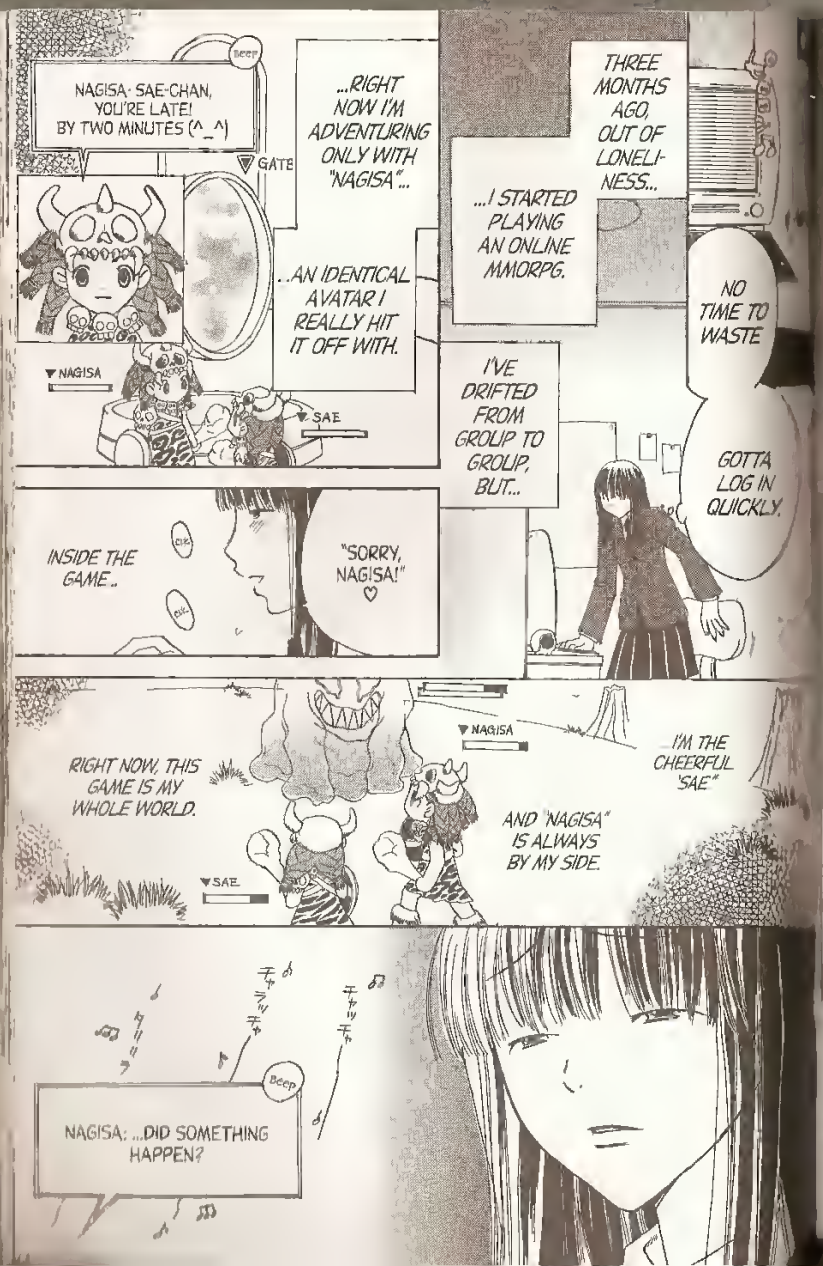
Change of Wardrobe (5)

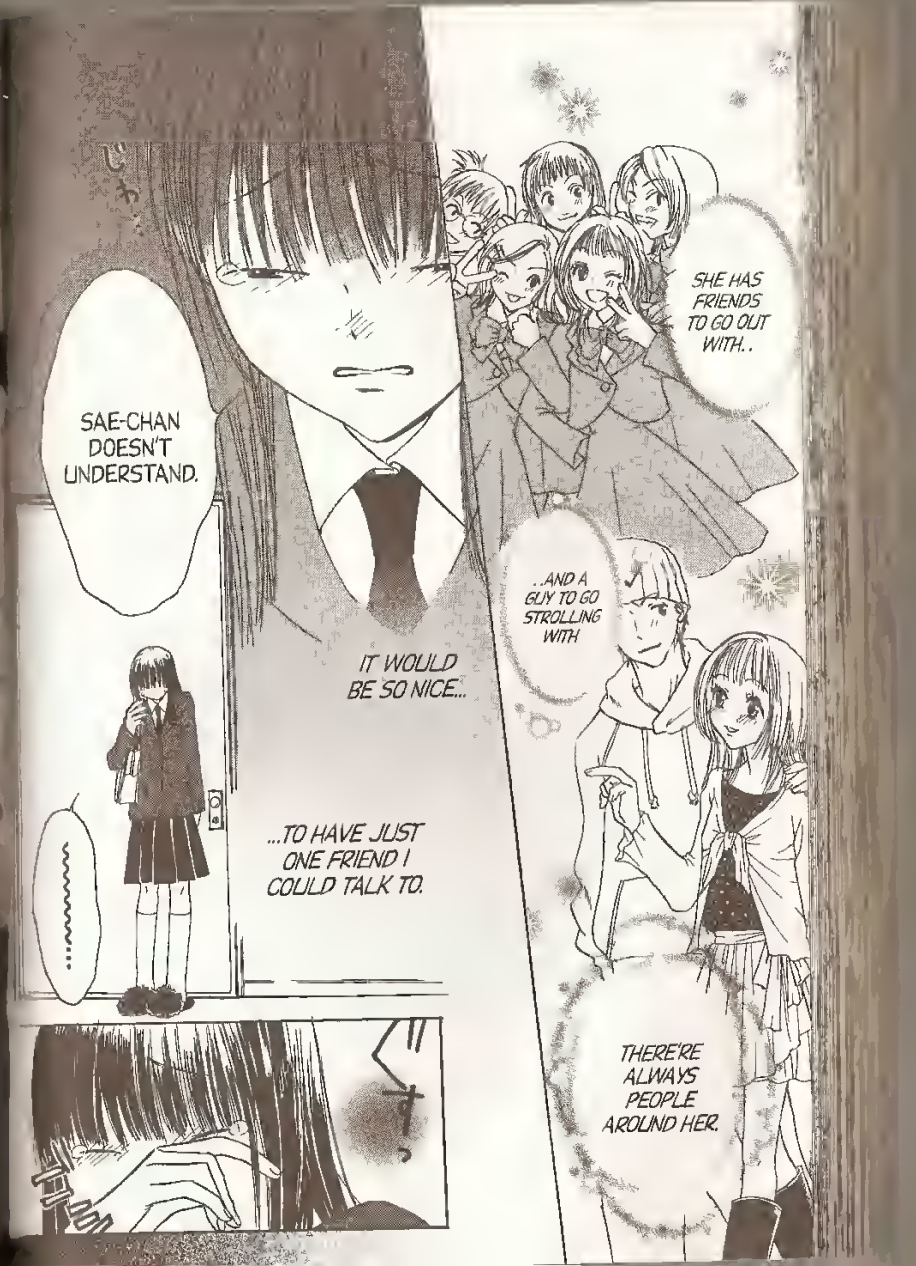
NOBUO X RYOUHEI'S OUTFIT

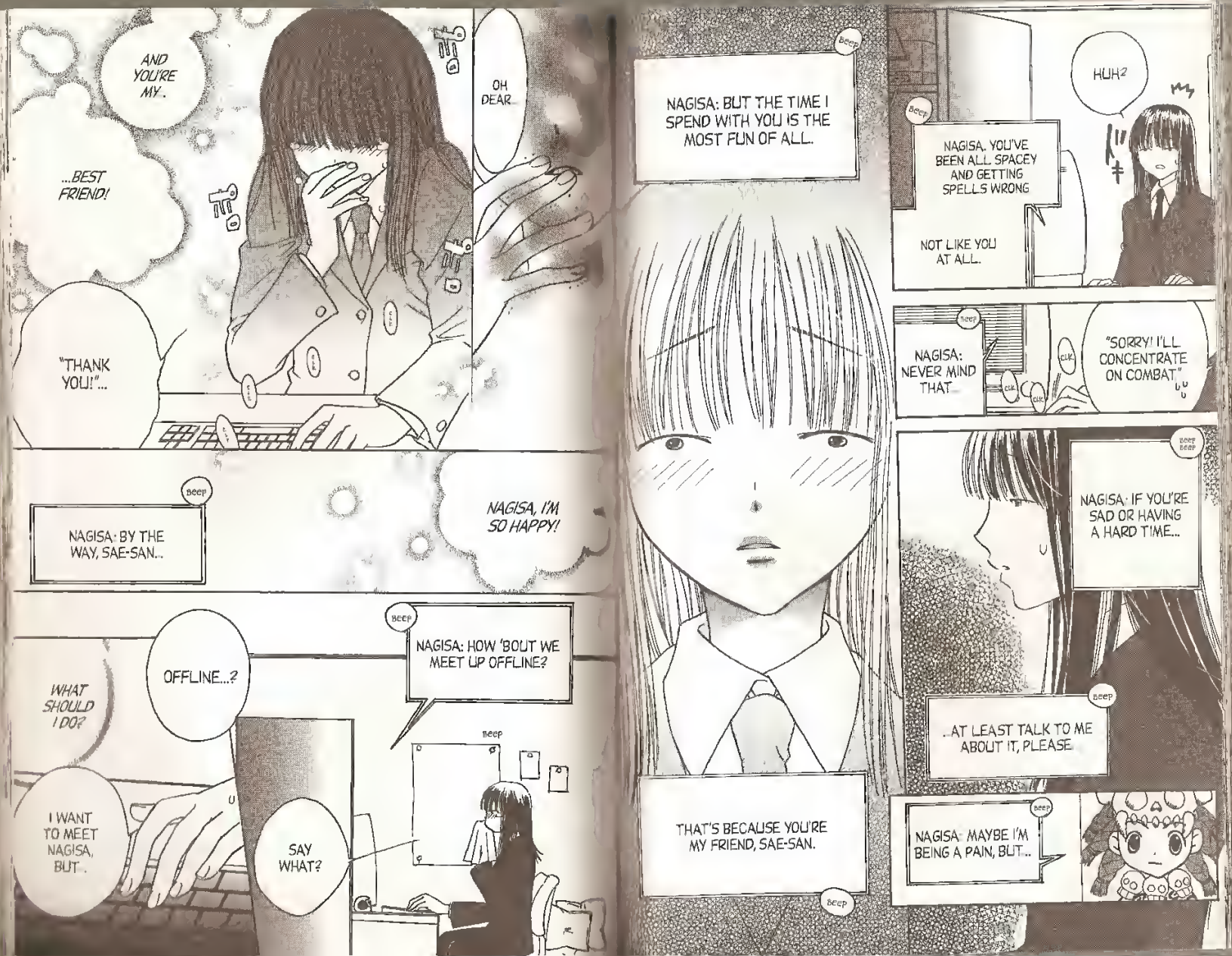


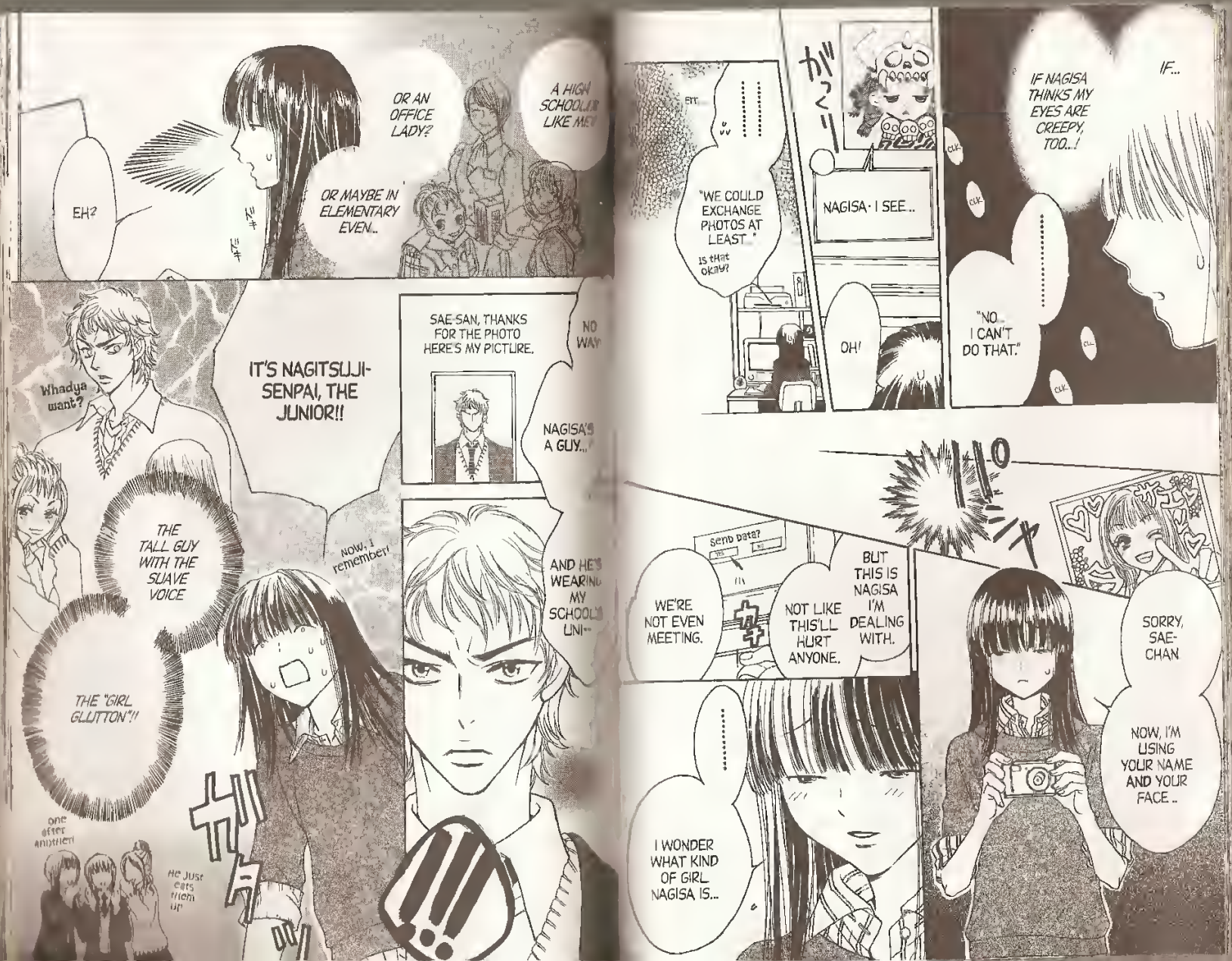
Ah ha
SO, OF COURSE SHE CAME TO OUR SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WELL, JUST LOOK AT HER
FOR REAL?
ha ha ha . ha!
SINGLE EYELIDS JUST WEIRD ME OUT.
I'VE HEARD HER SISTER IS THE PRETTIEST IN HER CLASS!
Guys Love Her!
...WITH "NAGISA."
I WANNA BE...
..I WANT TO GO HOME WITHOUT A SECOND TO SPARE.
AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
OH, MY! WHAT A BEAST!
SO, WHO'S "SHE"?
OH!
UM..
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
THE "GIRL GLUTTON."
THAT'S NAGITSUJI-SAN, THE JUNIOR
You're so kind!
OH, NAGITSUJI!
HEY, WHO WAS THAT GUY?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
BECAUSE HE EATS UP GIRLS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER.
week after week
HENCE "GIRL GLUTTON."
Aha!
SO WHAT, HE ISN'T GETTING ENOUGH? SURE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT ENOUGH.
SO YOU SEE--
UM...
... SURE.
THANKS.
OOOH, HOUJI-SAN.

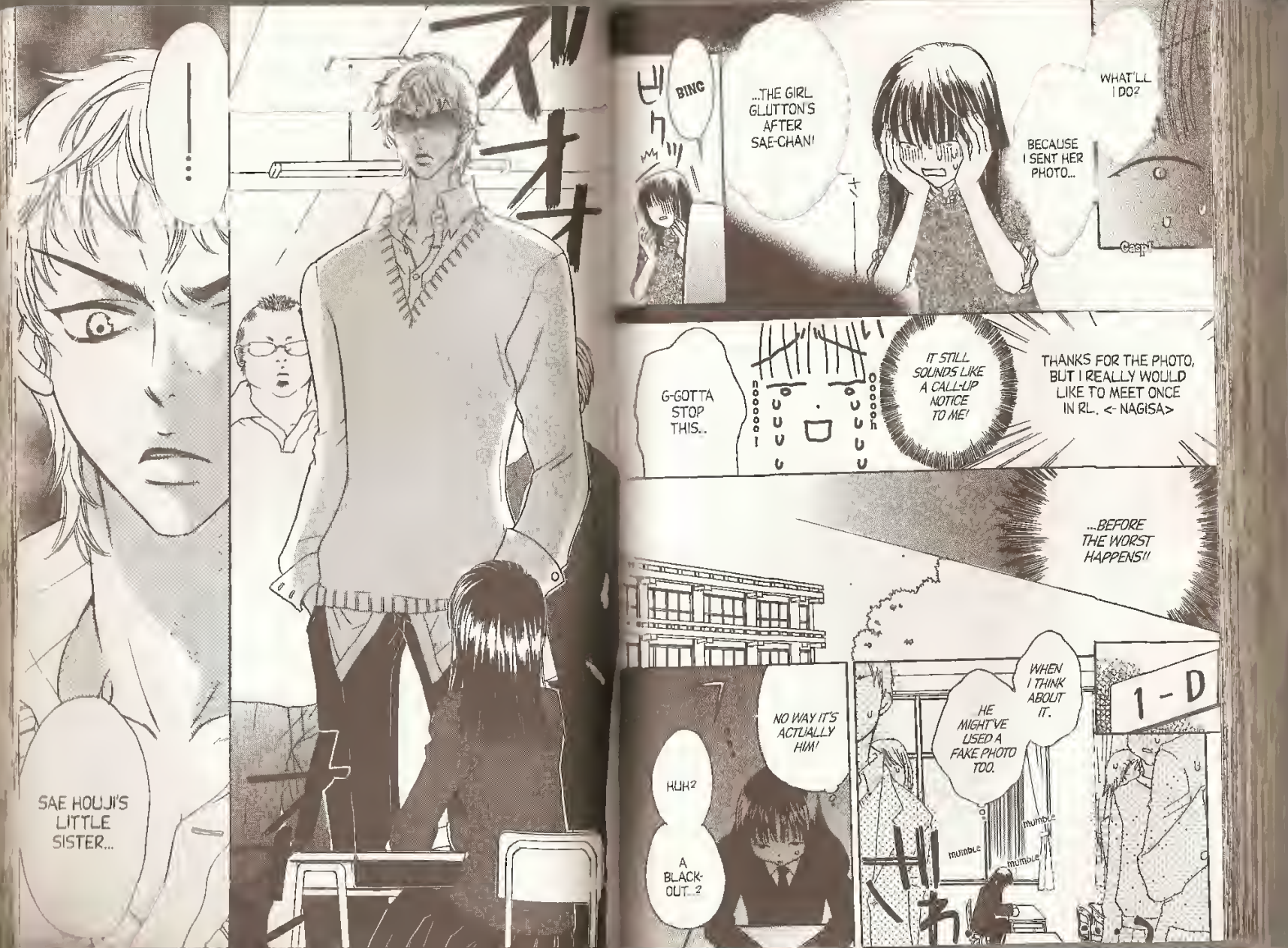

GAMES ARE FINE, BUT...
...BEING STUCK IN YOUR ROOM ISN'T.
GOING OUT WITH FRIENDS IS GOOD TOO.
Later!
カチャ
TAE-CHAN!
WELCOME HOME!!
SAE-CHAN.
BECAUSE IF I'M HOME, I CAN SEE NAGISA
I'M NOT LIKE SAE-CHAN.
CHEERFUL, PRETTY SAE-CHAN
BUT I DON'T...
..HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
カチャ
I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE INSIDE "GATE"
"GATE"?
ER...
YEAH, CLOTHES SHOPPING WITH CLASS-MATES.
HEADING OUT RIGHT NOW?
AND YOU?
YEAH
IS THAT ANOTHER PC GAME?!
JEEZ, TAE-CHAN.
カチ
カチ


NAGISA: SAE-CHAN, YOU'RE LATE! BY TWO MINUTES (^_^)
Beep
GATE
...RIGHT NOW I'M ADVENTURING ONLY WITH "NAGISA"...
..AN IDENTICAL AVATAR I REALLY HIT IT OFF WITH.
NAGISA
SAE
THREE MONTHS AGO, OUT OF LONELINESS...
...I STARTED PLAYING AN ONLINE MMORPG.
I'VE DRIFTED FROM GROUP TO GROUP, BUT...
NO TIME TO WASTE
GOTTA LOG IN QUICKLY.
INSIDE THE GAME..
"SORRY, NAGISA!" ♡
RIGHT NOW, THIS GAME IS MY WHOLE WORLD.
NAGISA
SAE
...I'M THE CHEERFUL 'SAE'
AND "NAGISA" IS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE.
Beep
NAGISA: ...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?


SAE-CHAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
IT WOULD BE SO NICE...
...TO HAVE JUST ONE FRIEND I COULD TALK TO.
SHE HAS FRIENDS TO GO OUT WITH..
..AND A GUY TO GO STROLLING WITH
THERE'RE ALWAYS PEOPLE AROUND HER.


AND YOU'RE MY...
OH DEAR...
...BEST FRIEND!
"THANK YOU!"...
beep
NAGISA: BY THE WAY, SAE-SAN...
NAGISA, I'M SO HAPPY!
beep
NAGISA: HOW 'BOUT WE MEET UP OFFLINE?
OFFLINE...?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I WANT TO MEET NAGISA, BUT...
SAY WHAT?
beep
beep
NAGISA: BUT THE TIME I SPEND WITH YOU IS THE MOST FUN OF ALL.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FRIEND, SAE-SAN.
beep
HUH?
beep
NAGISA, YOU'VE BEEN ALL SPACEY AND GETTING SPELLS WRONG
NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.
beep
NAGISA: NEVER MIND THAT...
clk
clk
clk
"SORRY! I'LL CONCENTRATE ON COMBAT."
beep beep
NAGISA: IF YOU'RE SAD OR HAVING A HARD TIME...
beep
...AT LEAST TALK TO ME ABOUT IT, PLEASE.
beep
NAGISA: MAYBE I'M BEING A PAIN, BUT...


EH?
OR AN OFFICE LADY?
A HIGH SCHOOLER LIKE ME?
OR MAYBE IN ELEMENTARY EVEN..
IT'S NAGITSUJI-SENPAI, THE JUNIOR!!
Whadya want?
SAE-SAN, THANKS FOR THE PHOTO HERE'S MY PICTURE.
NO WAY!
NAGISA'S A GUY...!
NOW, I remember!
THE TALL GUY WITH THE SUAVE VOICE
THE "GIRL GLUTTON"!!
AND HE'S WEARING MY SCHOOL'S UNI--
one after another
He just eats them up
"WE COULD EXCHANGE PHOTOS AT LEAST."
Is that okay?
NAGISA· I SEE..
OH!
IF NAGISA THINKS MY EYES ARE CREEPY, TOO..!
IF...
"NO.. I CAN'T DO THAT."
Send Data?
WE'RE NOT EVEN MEETING.
NOT LIKE THIS'LL HURT ANYONE.
BUT THIS IS NAGISA I'M DEALING WITH.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF GIRL NAGISA IS...
SORRY, SAE-CHAN
NOW, I'M USING YOUR NAME AND YOUR FACE..


!!!
SAE HOUJI'S LITTLE SISTER...
ズオ
BING
...THE GIRL GLUTTON'S AFTER SAE-CHAN!
BECAUSE I SENT HER PHOTO...
WHAT'LL I DO?
Gasp!
G-GOTTA STOP THIS..
IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE A CALL-UP NOTICE TO ME!
THANKS FOR THE PHOTO, BUT I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO MEET ONCE IN RL. <- NAGISA>
...BEFORE THE WORST HAPPENS!!
1 - D
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.
HE MIGHT'VE USED A FAKE PHOTO TOO.
mumble
mumble
mumble
NO WAY IT'S ACTUALLY HIM!
HUH?
A BLACK-OUT..?

"GOODBYE FOREVER."
!
"I ALWAY THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL."
THAT'S MY E-MAIL FROM YESTERDAY!
"I WON'T GAME WITH YOU AGAIN."
"I'M IN SHOCK."
...CONCERNING THIS E-MAIL.
I MOST CERTAINLY WANT TO MEET OFFLINE NOW...
TELL THAT TO SAE.
IS SHE YOUR NEXT TARGET?
Let us meet~ Hey!
WOOOW, YOU'RE E-MAIL PALS WITH THAT HOTTIE SAE HOUJI?!
IT-IT-IT-IT-IT-IT-
IT...
...RIGHT?
IT'S HIM... NAGITSUJI SENPAI!
W-WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?!
"TO NAGISA-SAMA"
Note: Classmates at a distance

I WILL NOT.
MR. "KNOCKOUT MAKER"...
...TURN ME INTO SAE!
NO!
REBEL PHASE?
COULD THIS BE HIS..
INSTEAD OF COPYING YOUR SISTER..
..WHY DON'T WE BRING OUT YOUR OWN BEAUTY?
PUT SOME MAKEUP ON THOSE SINGLE EYELIDS AND DEAL!
HE DID ALL OF THAT JUST TO FLIRT!
NAGITSUJI-SENPAI REALLY IS "NAGISA"!
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS!!
HE FOOLED EVERYONE!
sob!
U
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!
I'D BE MY FAULT ..
IF SHE WERE HURT.
I HAVE TO THINK OF SAE-CHAN
sob!
...SO, PLEASE.

WE ALL AGREED TO TAKE THE JOB.
ARE YOU TRYIN' TO DRIVE HER OFF?
I WAS AGAINST THIS JOB FROM THE START!
YOU GOTTA CUT THAT OU-
LET GO, NOBUO!
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!
IT'S HOW IT IS.
IMITATION PALES IN COMPARISON TO ONE'S OWN LIGHT.
BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER--
YOU CAN'T LIE TO HIM ANY FURTHER.
B-BUT...
...SENPAI SAID FOR SAE-CHAN TO COME.
SO WHAT?!
YOU CAN APOLOGIZE TO HIM...
GET PRETTY, GET CONFIDENT, AND TELL HIM THE TRUTH.
...AND SAY, "I'M SAE-CHAN FROM THE GAME"!
TOSHI-KUN, A MOMENT!
WHA--
WHAT?!
don't drag me off like a rabbit!
THAT'S
BUT..
BUT.
WHY'S SHE CRYING?!
.....
Suh...

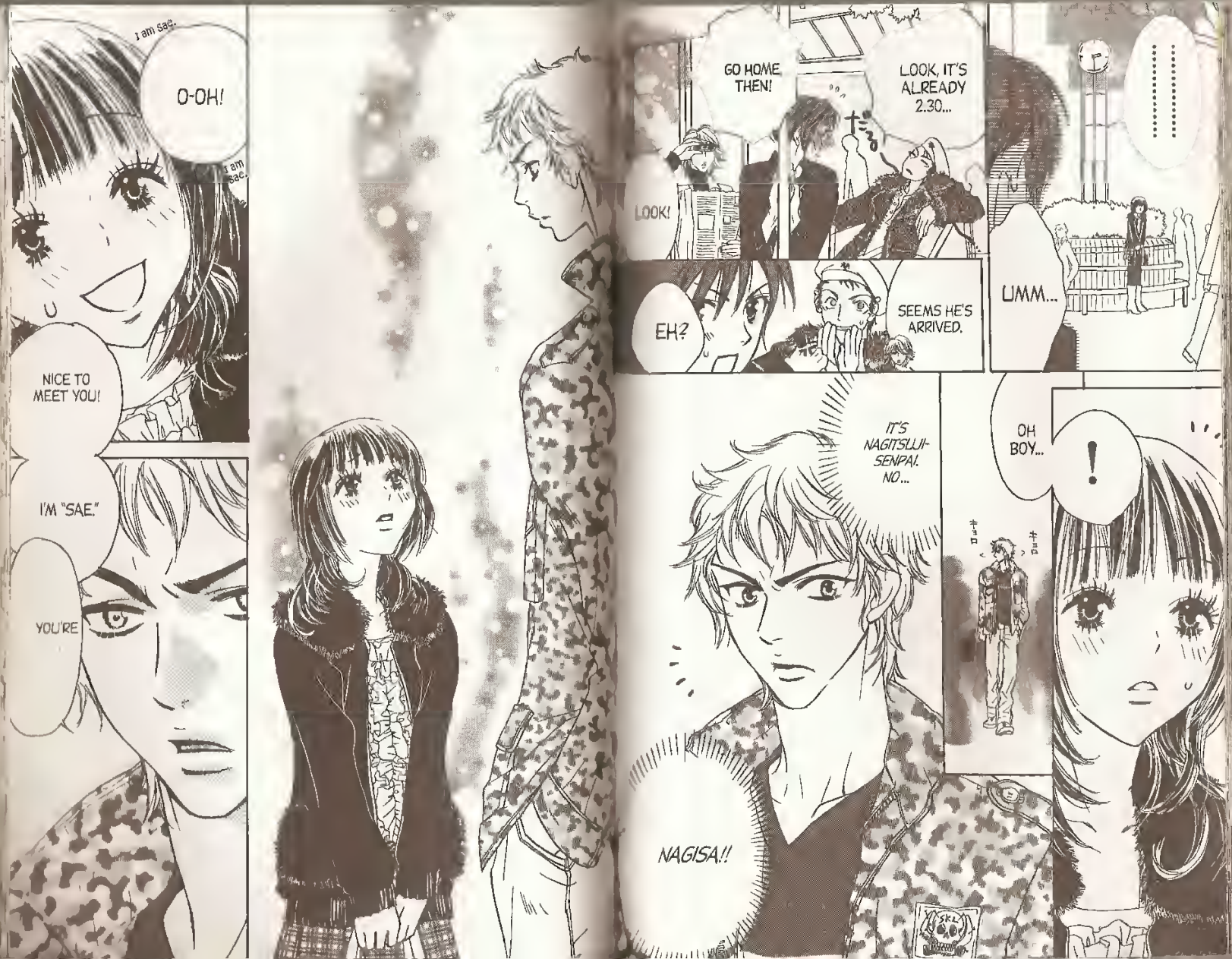
TO MAKE HER CRY?!
WHO ARE WE?
WE'RE K.O.M.
WE MAKE CLIENTS' DREAMS COME TRUE
NOT MAKE THEM CRY
DON'T THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST ALL THE TIME
RYOUHEI.
IT SEEMS THE CLIENT
TOSHI-HIRO-KUN.
...WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW HER REQUEST
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ER, UM...
THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO GO.
.....
HOLD ON.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE "SAE" SO MUCH?
I THINK YOUR EYES ARE PRETTY ENOUGH AS THEY ARE
I'M SORRY.
I KNOW

...I WANT TO BE LIKE SAE-CHAN
I WANT THE COURAGE TO SPEAK!!
THAT'S WHY..
..I BECAME "SAE."
THEY'RE GLOOMY, SO PEOPLE AVOID ME.
I HAVE NO FRIENDS.
EVEN IN A FACELESS GAME .
...I OULDN'T SAY EVERYTHING I WANTED.
I. HATE THESE EYES.
BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE SINGLE EYE-LIDS.
I COULDN'T SPEAK TO NAGITSUJI-SENPAI AS MYSELF.
IF I WERE "SAE"...
..MAYBE I COULD'VE JUST SAID NO.
I BEG YOU...

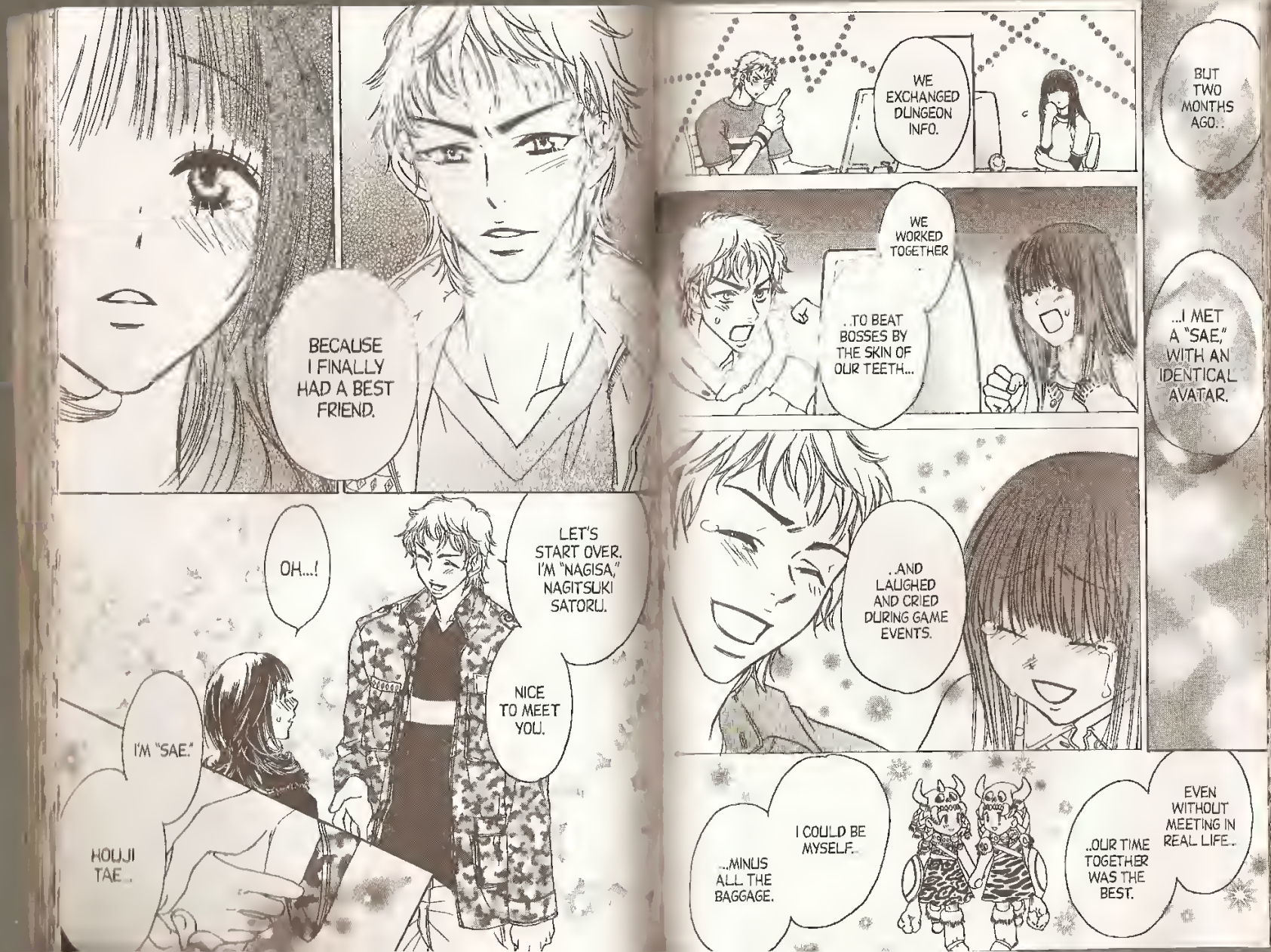
"GIRLS, LIKE FLOWERS, HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL NEEDS."
I'M SORR--
DON'T BE SORRY!
I...
CAN'T HAVE GIRLS CRYING ON ME HERE.
FINE, I GIVE IN!
WE'LL GO WITH THE "SAE" LOOK.
I'M SORRY I FORGOT MY MASTER'S TEACHINGS.
"K.O.M." IS A MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY GROUP, COMPOSED...
BUT IT'S THE GIRL WHO DECIDES TO WALK ON IT, HUH?
..A TALL HAIR-STYLIST..
...AND A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST.
..OF A BEAUTY BASICS EXPERT..
IT IS OUR DUTY TO LIGHT THE PATH.
I WILL MAKE YOU INTO "SAE."
TAE HOUJI, I, TOSHIHIRO SAKUMA..
WE'VE NO RIGHT TO DICTATE THE LIFE OF THE CLIENT.
..OF K.O.M., HEREBY ACCEPT YOUR DESIRE TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

SO, "SAE"...
NOT YET!
THERE'RE THE "SAE" EYES LEFT TO GO!
YOU MAKE A GREAT "SAE CHAN"! ♡
...ARE YOU SATISFIED?
A BROWN LINE THE SAME WIDTH AS "SAE"S EYELID...
PEARL-IVORY EYE SHADOW AROUND THE EYES...
ADD BLACK EYE SHADOW ABOVE AND BELOW TO SHADE THE EYE.
...AND BLACK EYELINER FOR THE INNER LASHES.
...WITH MASCARA TO CREATE LONG, VERTICAL LASHES.
YOUR LASHES ARE SHORT, SO SOME FAKE EYELASHES, CURLED OUTWARD..
GENTLY PRESS YOUR FINGERTIP HERE FOR TEN SECONDS.
WE'LL USE MASSAGE THERAPY FOR THAT.
...OF PUFFINESS CAUSED BY GAMING LATE EVERY NIGHT.
AS I SUSPECTED, YOUR HEAVY EYELIDS ARE THE RESULT...
TURN THIS WAY.
陽白 YO-HAKU
...AND TRACE A LINE HERE, LIKE SO.
PRESS YOUR THUMB FIRMLY BELOW THE FOREHEAD...
攅竹 SANCHIKU
魚腰 GYOYO
眉毛 MAYU
眼窩 KENDOKU
THEN, I'LL CURL THE TOP AND BACK WITH AN IRON
AFTER CUTTING A MERMAID FORM AT THE NECK-LINE..
LAST, I'LL TWIRL THE HAIR UNDER YOUR EARS AND HOLD IT IN PLACE WITH SOFT WAX
...I'LL TRIM THE LONG BANGS TO JUST BELOW YOUR BROW
I SEE.
APPLYING FACIAL LOTION WITH COTTON WILL ALSO FIRM UP THE FOREHEAD.
NOW MASTER NOBLIO WILL BRING OUT THE "SAE-CHAN" ELEMENTS.

RIGHT NOW...
...YOU'RE "SAE," NOT "TAE," RIGHT?
The makeup'll run!
THANK...
ungh
GET GOING.
AND KNOCK "NAGISA" OUT!
I am sae.
I am sae.
I am sae.
THERE'RE ONLY THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE OUR MEETING!
THIRTY MINUTES...
OH...
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
THANK YOU!
ペコ
ペコ
ペコ


I am Sae.
O-OH!
I am Sae.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M "SAE."
YOU'RE
GO HOME THEN!
LOOK, IT'S ALREADY 2.30...
LOOK!
EH?
SEEMS HE'S ARRIVED.
UMM...
IT'S NAGITSUJI-SENPAI. NO...
OH BOY...
!
NAGISA!!

UH...
...SAE," RIGHT?
YOU'RE MY FRIEND...
HUH?
YOU DON'T SEEM DISAPPOINTED I'M "SAE." WHY?
BECAUSE "SAE" IS A LOT LIKE ME.
EH?
..THE GIRLS WHO CHASE ME 'CAUSE OF MY FACE.
YOU SEE.
.DUMP ME THE SEC THEY FIND OUT I'M A GAMER
one week, tops!
"GIRL GLUTTON" IS JUST A NICKNAME.
HOW'D HE KNOW?!
W-WHAT DO I DO?
IS HE GONNA "EAT" ME? OR..
I WAS TOO OBVIOUS?
Stiff
Busted.
...HOUJI'S LITTLE SISTER.
...BEAT ME UP?!
HEH HEH!
WOMEN ARE SUCH FIENDS...
HEH. SO FUNNY..
STILL...
IT'S JUST THAT YOU ACTUALLY..
...LOOK LIKE YOUR PICTURE NOW
HEH
HEH
EH...?
AH, SORRY.


BECAUSE I FINALLY HAD A BEST FRIEND.
OH...!
LET'S START OVER. I'M "NAGISA," NAGITSUKI SATORU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M "SAE."
HOUJI TAE.
WE EXCHANGED DUNGEON INFO.
WE WORKED TOGETHER
..TO BEAT BOSSES BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH...
..AND LAUGHED AND CRIED DURING GAME EVENTS.
BUT TWO MONTHS AGO..
...I MET A "SAE," WITH AN IDENTICAL AVATAR.
...MINUS ALL THE BAGGAGE.
I COULD BE MYSELF..
..OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS THE BEST.
EVEN WITHOUT MEETING IN REAL LIFE..

The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 10

→*See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 9/END

I SAID NO.
THIS IS THE 108TH TIME I'VE ASKED YOU OUT!
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS!
DON'T SAY THAT!
NO WAY.
NO.
LET'S GO SEE THE LEGENDARY ...
CLUB
LISTEN, CHINARI.
..COUPLE TREE TOG-
!
...YOU CAN BUY ME A PORSCHE, LIKE NOW?
UNLESS OF COURSE...
HUH?
I'M AFTER ELEGANT, OLDER, STUCK-UP, ACTRESS A**KO YADA TYPES.
I TOLD YOU IN JUNIOR HIGH.
HEY! TAKU.
YOU'RE UP.
Oops.
I'LL PASS ON PAUPERS WHO LOOK AND TALK LIKE KIDS. LIKE YOU.
むにむにむにむに

NO.
I WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY!
TAKUMA-SENPAI!
SO PLEASE, QUIT YOUR ESCORT JOB AND BE MINE!
Takuma Konoe (18)
Host
Chinari Shinkai (16)
Junior in High School

Change of Wardrobe (6)
RYOUHEI X TOSHIHITO'S OUTFIT
...make you into "sae."
Then I shall indeed.

YES, YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR RELATION TO TAKU-CHAN?
I FELL FOR HIM, AND BEEN FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT SINCE.
HE WAS MY SENPAI IN THE JUNIOR HIGH BEAUTY CLUB.
ER, WELL...
I SEE.
Giggle
BAR
Peggy's Bar
NaH.
IT'S FINE.
YOU SHOULD BE NICER TO HER, JEEZ.
I'M SO SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M F-FINE..
Yipe!
SHE'S JUST A KID....
...WITH NO MONEY.
I'M NOT GIVING UP!
I'LL SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH TAKUMA-SENPAI THIS YEAR
GO, CHINARI!
YOU THERE!
Woot!
.....
タン

BUT...
SORTA.
..AT ANY RATE..
S--
...IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
I WANTED TO MAKE HIM HAPPY!
FIRST TIME I SAW THAT LOVELY SMILE...
WE UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY!!
ONE LOOK INTO THOSE EYES AND WE SEE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU MUST'VE BLOWN ON HIM!
SISTER!!
WHAAAT?!
SORRY, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF
HEY, WON'T YOU JOIN US?
EHH?
Takuma Kohoe (17) DEVILISH Student
EVERYONE WANTED TO KNOW HIM.
...TO EVERYTHING FROM ERASERS TO DATES.
HE WAS ALWAYS BEING TREATED BY TEACHERS, GIRLS...
SENPAI HAS BEEN HIGH-MAINTENANCE SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.
ER...
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THE GREEDY TAKU-CHAN?
どっきーん
..SHINKAI-SAN ♡
RIGHT?
NOOOO!
It's not fair!
THANK YOU.
YOU SAVED ME!
I'M STARVING
BUT I CAN'T EAT A WATCH!
UM..
BUT ONE DAY...
IT'S ALL I HAVE 'TIL DINNER, THOUGH.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS IF YOU WANT.

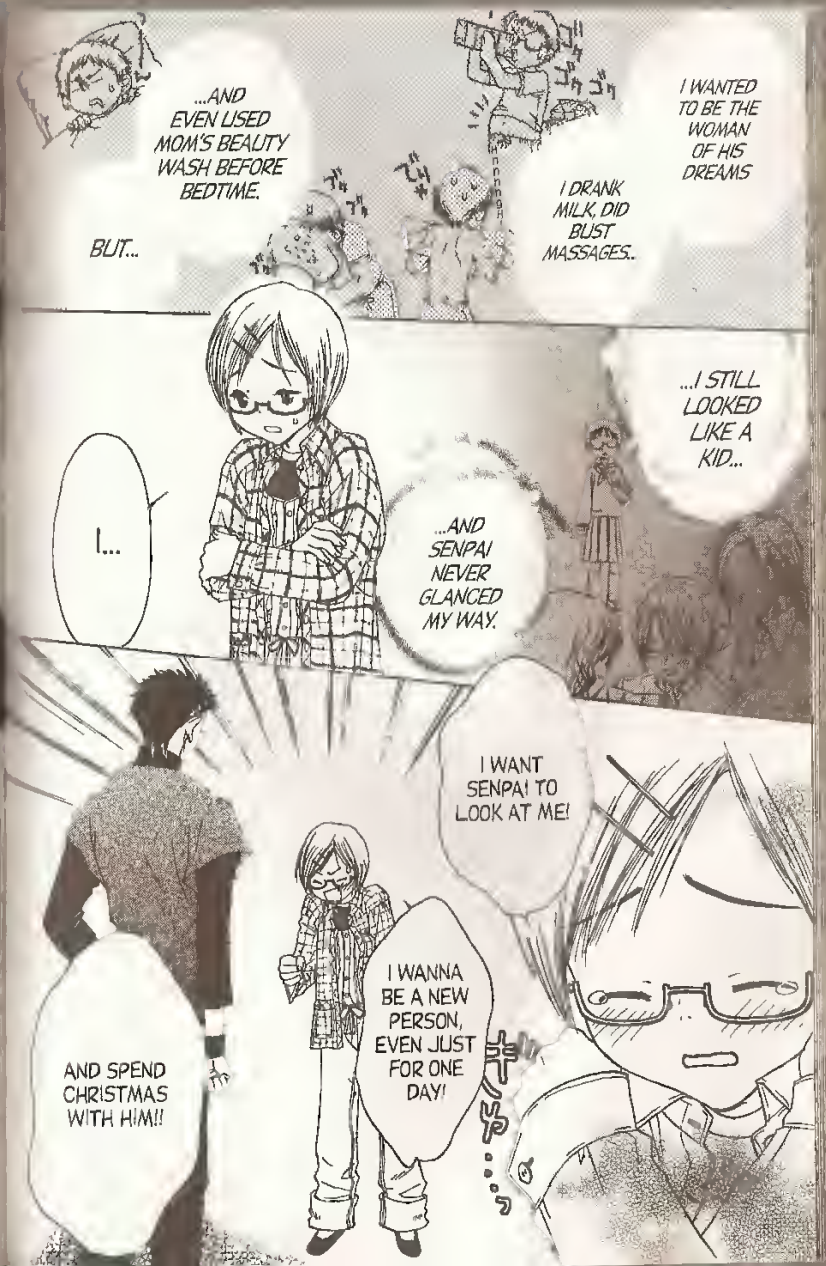
TH--
THAT MIGHT BE BAD.
...DO YOU WANT TO GO YOUR WHOLE LIFE...
...WITH HIM CHASING OTHER "WOMEN"?
YEAAAH!
YEAH
LET US TEACH THE YOUNG GRADUATE HOST THE TERROR OF WOMAN!
NOW!
...THE "TAKU-CHAN VICTIMS SOCIETY."
TAKU-CHAN USED US TO BUY BRAND NAME GOODS....
...THEN HE DUMPED US GIRLS (AND TRANNY) WHEN WE WENT BROKE.
COME, JOIN US FOR REVENGE ON TAKU-CHAN!
UM..
I'LL PASS
WHY?!
I DIDN'T SPEND MONEY ON HIM LIKE YOU DID.
SO, NOTHING TO AVENGE
SO NAIVE.
"WOMEN ARE EASY".
..IS WHAT TAKU-CHAN SAYS WHEN HE DUMPS YOU.
TRUE, WE'RE OLDER AND HAVE A BIT OF MONEY
BUT STILL, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOLER..

YEAH.
SHE MUST ASK THE "KNOCKOUT MAKERS"...
THAT OPTION?
K.O.M. IS A MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY GROUP COMPOSED
...TO MAKE HER INTO A LADY.
...OF A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST...
..A BEAUTY BASICS EXPERT...
WITHOUT A DOUBT..
..THIS "TAKU" GUY IS USING GIRLS...
..AS PIGGY BANKS. I WON'T STAND FOR IT
...AND A TALL HAIR-STYLIST.

NO!
IT'D BE EASIER GETTING AN INTERVIEW WITH A**KO YADA!
SHE LOOKS KIDDY NO MATTER WHAT.
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK OUT.
EH?
IF CHINARI-CHAN, WHOM TAKU-CHAN'S DUMPED SO MUCH...
..MAKES HIM FALL FOR HER, AND DUMPS HIM, THAT'D BE REVENGE!
COME HERE!
Ew!
AT THIS POINT..
...THERE'S ONLY ONE OPTION LEFT.
THE INTERVIEW IS EASIER.
DON'T GIVE UP YET!
WAIT!
WITH PEGGY'S SPECIAL MAKEUP...!
HERE WE GO!

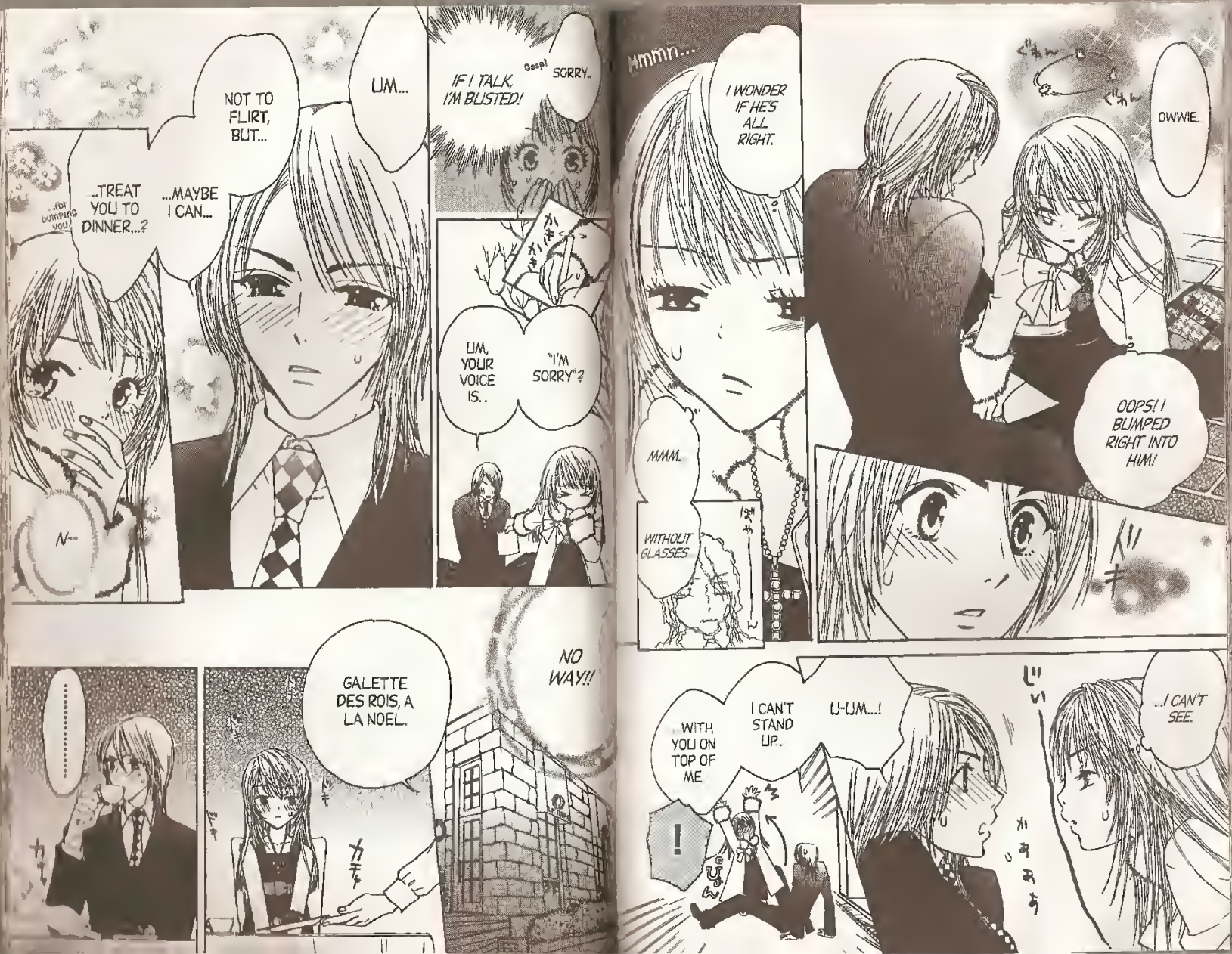
TURNING YOU INTO SOMEONE TAKU'LL LIKE...
...IS FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.
MY...
...HAPPI-NESS?
WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU, AFTER ALL.
I WAS CHASING TAKUMA-SENPAI SO HARD...
THAT I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT.
HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS?
YOU UNDER STAND...
...WHAT REVENGE MEANS RIGHT?
..I'M ALWAYS ON THE GIRL'S SIDE.
NO MATTER WHAT...
HUH?
CHINARI-CHAN.
HOW-EVER!
WAIT A MINUTE.
SO...
...NOBUO-SAMA'S PERFECTLY OKAY WITH IT! ♡
YOU'LL MAKE AN EXCELLENT PRINCESS.
SNAP DECISION.
UH, THANKS

WE, THE ANGELS CALLED "K.O.M."...
...HEREBY ACCEPT YOUR DESIRE TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S OKAY.
IF YOU WANNA CHANGE YOUR LOOK...
...FIRST, HAIR! AN EXTENSION FROM SHORT TO LONG...
...THEN CUT THE SIDE HAIR TO MATCH THE FACE LINE
TRIM THE HEAVY FRONT AND TOP A LITTLE...
AND FOR A VOLUMINOUS SILHOUETTE, I'LL USE A DRYER.


BUT...
...AND EVEN USED MOM'S BEAUTY WASH BEFORE BEDTIME.
I DRANK MILK, DID BUST MASSAGES..
I WANTED TO BE THE WOMAN OF HIS DREAMS
I...
...AND SENPAI NEVER GLANCED MY WAY.
...I STILL LOOKED LIKE A KID...
AND SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH HIM!!
I WANNA BE A NEW PERSON, EVEN JUST FOR ONE DAY!
I WANT SENPAI TO LOOK AT ME!

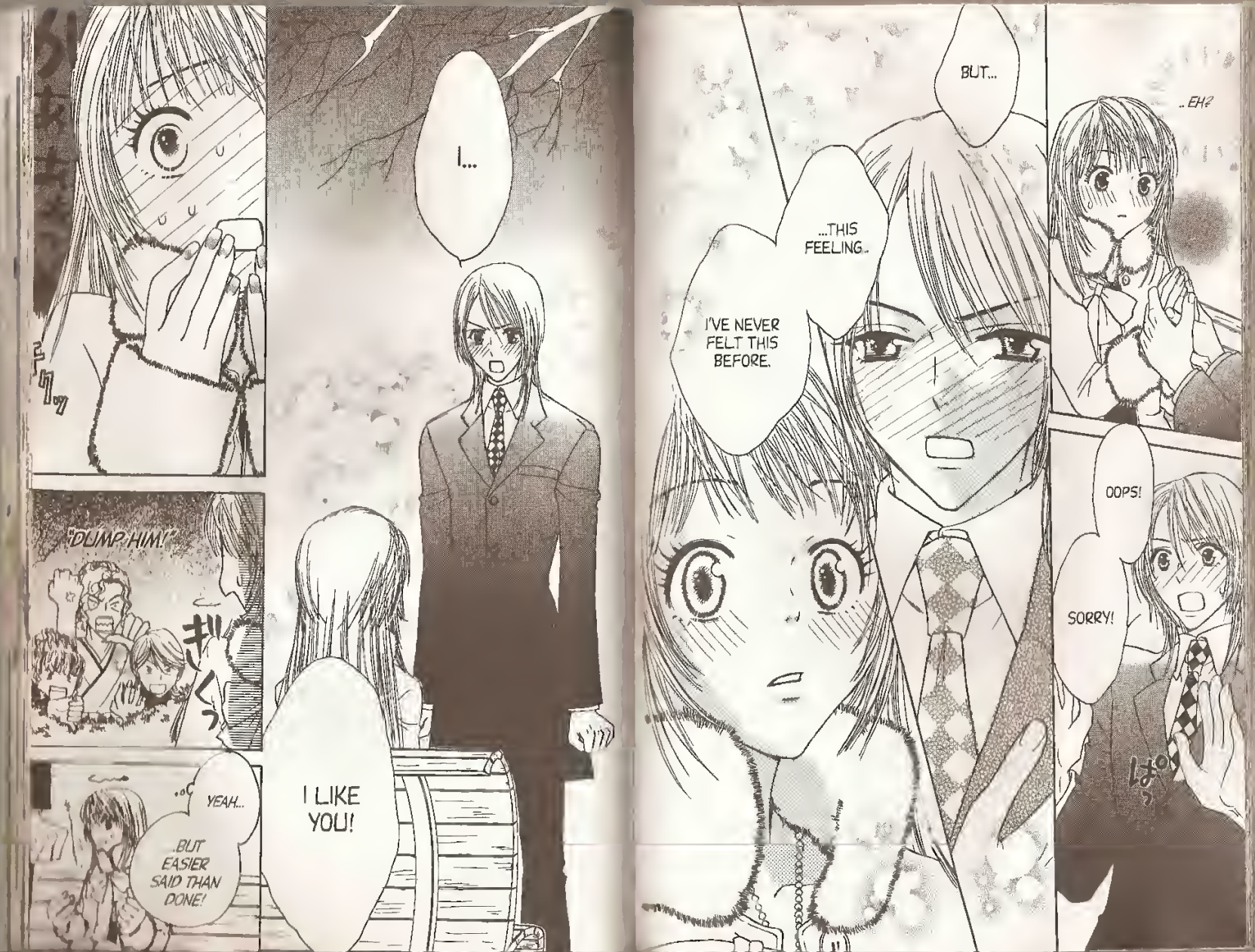
UM...
I CAN'T SEE WITHOUT GLASSES.
THERE A MIRROR...?
nearsighted
W-WHOA!
THIS CAN'T BE ME!
WELL, TALKING LIKE THAT WON'T DO.
SEEING AS IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, I'LL APPLY A PEARL-PINK AND WHITE FRENCH MANICURE.
SO THE SNOW DANCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.
THEN, SPECIAL CLOTHES FOR THE HOLIDAY.
COME, MY LADY.
NOT YET!
SHE BECOMES EVEN MORE ELEGANT FROM HERE.
REALLY TURNED INTO A MATURE LADY, HUH?
BEIGE JUST UNDER THE EYE-BROWS...
...WITH LONG LASHES AND LOTS OF MASCARA.
A THIN BRUSH TO APPLY PEARL HIGHLIGHTS ON THE NOSE...
...AND A LARGE BRUSH FOR THE EYEBROWS AND JUST BELOW THE LIPS.
HIGHLIGHTS TO TIGHTEN THE ROUND, KID FEATURES.
SKIN-TONE BROWN TO SHADE THE CHEEKS NEAR HER EARS.
A LADY'S COAT WITH PURE WHITE FUR AND RIBBON.
THE WHITE MAY SEEM TOO BRILLIANT, BUT IT'LL DRAW THE VIEWER'S EYES UP.
AND THE SOFT PINK WILL GO WELL WITH MONOTONE COLORS.

Good job today, guys!
TIME FOR OPERATION: FALL OF TAKU-CHAN!
UPH!
HEY...!
EVEN IF THE MONEY IS GOOD...
..DEALING WITH THE LADIES CAN BE TIRING.
PHEW...
Ooooh!
AREN'T YOU PERFECT?! ♡
EVEN TAKU-CHAN'LL FALL FOR YOU!
WELL, PERSONALITY ASIDE
EH HEH
YOU WILL FOLLOW...
...THE PERFECT PLAN THAT I, PEGGY, HAVE DEVISED.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'M SO HAPPY!
BONK
I THINK I CAN DO TH--
Yikes...
Think she'll be okay?
gasp!

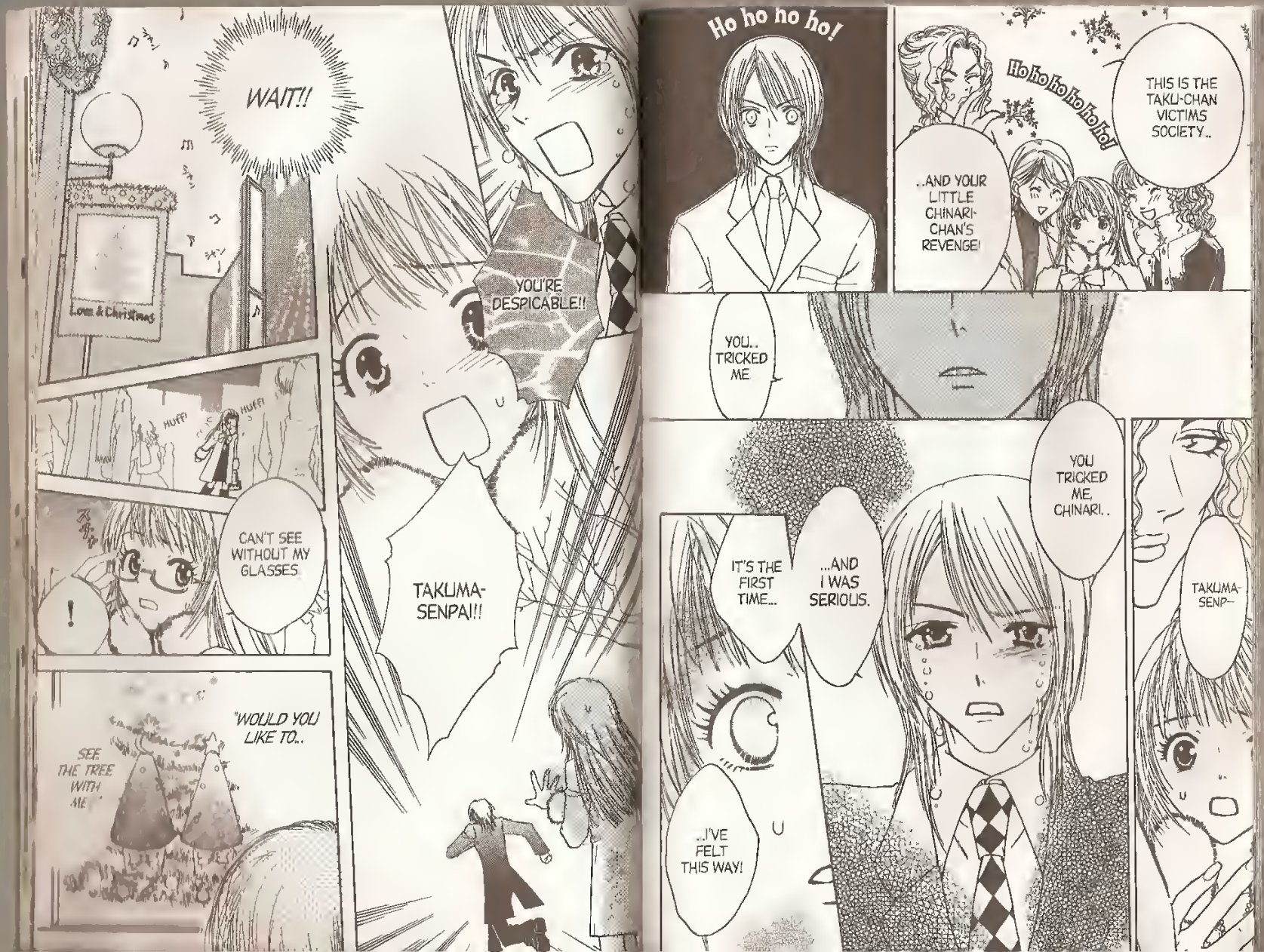

UM...
NOT TO FLIRT, BUT...
...MAYBE I CAN...
..TREAT YOU TO DINNER...?
..for bumping you!
N--
IF I TALK, I'M BUSTED!
Gasp!
SORRY..
UM, YOUR VOICE IS..
"I'M SORRY"?
Ummm...
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT.
MMM.
WITHOUT GLASSES
OWWIE..
OOPS! I BUMPED RIGHT INTO HIM!
..I CAN'T SEE.
U-UM...!
I CAN'T STAND UP.
WITH YOU ON TOP OF ME
!
GALETTE DES ROIS, A LA NOEL.
NO WAY!!

I KNOW...
HAVING SAID THAT..
SENPAI'S BEEN QUIET TOO.
WHAT TO DO?
..MY HEART'S STILL THUMPING SO HARD.
HE'S ALWAYS SO MONEY-OBSESSED..
..MAYBE HE'S UPSET 'CAUSE HE HAD OTHER PLANS.
HMM..
Ah Ha Ha!
Squeal! Squeal!
You teaser ♡
W-WHAT?
!
..PESTER-ING HIM?
MAYBE I'M..
OH...
YOU WANT ME TO READ IT
WHISPER
LOOKS GOOD PROCEED.
IT'S MY FIRST LUNCH WITH SENPAI!!
UWAAAH!!
W.C.
IT'S LIKE A DREAM DATE.
I'M SO HAPPY!
LUNCH WITH TAKUMA-SENPAI..
WALKING BY HIS SIDE..
GOING SHOPPING TOGETHER...
..'CUZ YOU'RE DUMPING HIM ONCE HE FALLS FOR YOU.
JUST LIKE THE PLAN.
ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS..
JUST GO ALONG WITH IT.
THIS PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH CELEB HOTSPOTS.

UM, EVEN THOUGH...
I'D NEVER HAVE REFUSED!
...WE JUST MET...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO...
SEE THE TREE WITH ME?
WELL...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE OTHER PLANS
ARE YOU FINE WITH...
...BEING WITH ME?
"I'M SORRY, IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE"
"AM I HOLDING YOU UP"?
ME?
Nod.
"MY FEW TREE DATES BLEW ME OFF."
YOU..GOT BLOWN OFF?
BY YOU.
THAT'S..
NO ONE WAITING UP?
SO, WOULD SEEING THE TREE TOGETHER BE OUT OF THE QUESTION?


I...
I LIKE YOU!
"DUMP HIM!"
YEAH...
..BUT EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
BUT...
...THIS FEELING..
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS BEFORE.
..EH?
OOPS!
SORRY!

SHE COULD BE THE POOREST ON EARTH...
...BUT SHE'S STILL HER.
TAKUMA SEN--
OH HO HO!!
NOW, CHINARI-CHAN. DUMP THIS LOSER!
HUH?
WHAT ...?
TA...
SO, YOU THINK..
THAT SHE'S A RICH LADY, DON'T YOU?
!
..IF SHE WERE IN DEBT UP TO HER EYEBALLS?
WOULD YOU SAY THE SAME THING.
WHA--!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
THAT HAS...
..NOTHING TO DO...


WAIT!!
Love & Christmas
HUFF!
HUFF!
CAN'T SEE WITHOUT MY GLASSES
!
"WOULD YOU LIKE TO..
SEE THE TREE WITH ME
YOU'RE DESPICABLE!!
TAKUMA-SENPAI!!
Ho ho ho ho!
Ho ho ho ho ho ho!
THIS IS THE TAKU-CHAN VICTIMS SOCIETY..
..AND YOUR LITTLE CHINARI-CHAN'S REVENGE!
YOU.. TRICKED ME
YOU TRICKED ME, CHINARI..
IT'S THE FIRST TIME...
...AND I WAS SERIOUS.
..I'VE FELT THIS WAY!
TAKUMA-SENP--

LISTEN TO ME.
YOU'RE A REAL PIECE OF WORK!
MAKING ME FEEL THIS WAY JUST TO DUMP ME.
YOU'VE REBOUNDED 100 TIMES OVER...
I GUESS WE'RE EVEN.
..BUT I FELL APART JUST THIS ONE TIME.
NO, TAKUMA-SENPAI!
I...
FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
THERE HE IS!
HUFF!
HUFF!
WA-
WAIT, SENPAI!
TAKUMA-SENPAI!
CHINARI...

...WHA?!
...THAT YOU GO FOR RICH LADIES AND ALL, BUT..
OTHER BOYS SPOILED THE CUTE GIRLS TOO, BUT..
YOU ACTUALLY LISTENED TO MY CONFESSION.
I KNOW.
WOW.
YEAH
IT WAS MY FIRST PROPER TURN-DOWN.
I WAS SO HAPPY.
..OF COURSE I LIKED YOU!
I WANTED TO GO SEE THE TREE TOGETHER!
THERE WERE MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU...

パアアア・・・・

This host suit's kinda stuffy.
IN SOME MORE CASUAL CLOTHES.
...HOW 'BOUT SEEING THE TREE NEXT YEAR?
!
OH, TAKUMA-SENPA!!
DID YOU SAY NEXT YEAR?!
THEN THAT MEANS--
HEY, QUIT BEING SO PUSHY, OR IT'S OVER.
Hey! No fair!
AAAW...
I COULDN'T EMBARRASS MYSELF 100 TIMES.
YOU'RE QUITE A GIRL, CHINARI.
SENPAI, YOU'RE WRONG.
COUNTING THIS TIME, I'VE CONFESSED
109 TIMES.
JEEZ, I KNOW THAT.
I MEAN...

TRULY,
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.
TO SR EDITOR YOSHINO-SAMA AND EVERYONE AT THE PUBLISHER INVOLVED IN GETTING VOLUME 2 OUT, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ALL THE READERS OF THIS BOOK!! THANK YOU SO MUCH. MY TRAINING IS NOT YET SUFFICIENT, BUT I SHALL BE DILIGENT IN MY DAILY LABORS.
DO SEND LETTERS WITH YOUR THOUGHTS TO
KNOCKOUT MAKERS FANMAIL
C/O TOKYOPOP
5900 WILSHIRE BLVD
SUITE #2000
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036
I'LL BE WAITING. TAKE CARE UNTIL VOLUME 3! LATER!!
FEB 2005
KYOUKO HASHIMOTO
THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS 2 / END

WHAT'S WITH THE MINISKIRT AND HEART ON MY CHEST?
Santa's Hostess
...DO I HAVE TO WEAR THIS?!
SO WHY...
CERTAINLY, IT IS A BIT DEPRESSING.
ANOTHER ALL-GUY CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR
Host & Hostess
YOU LOST AT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS.
HEY, IT SUITS YOU.
HIRO-CHAAAN! ♡
Want me to cry, too?!
HMPH
I'LL REMEMBER THIS NEXT YEAR!

➡Very Merry Christmas to You!

CHAPTER 10/END